Office for National Statistics

User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales

November 2014

Office for National Statistics

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The Government Statistical Service

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) is a network of professional statisticians and their staff operating both within the Office for National Statistics and across more than 30 other government departments and agencies.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Publication of crime statistics

This user guide provides detailed information on the datasets used to compile crime statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the updates, issues, and classifications which are crucial to the production and presentation of the crime statistics.

Following a series of recommendations made in the National Statistician's review of crime statistics (National Statistician, 2011), responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferred from the Home Office to ONS in April 2012. Since then ONS has incorporated many of the National Statistician's recommendations including changes to the presentation and the classifications used in its publications. This user guide has been adapted and updated from a previous version produced by the Home Office highlighting changes since responsibility transferred to ONS.

ONS publishes figures on the levels and trends of crime in England and Wales primarily based on two sets of crime statistics: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime data. Each source has different strengths and limitations but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone. A quarterly statistical bulletin also draws on data from other sources to provide a more comprehensive picture of crime and anti-social behaviour including data from the courts, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and the Commercial Victimisation Survey. In addition to quarterly updates a number of supplementary volumes are produced, containing in-depth analysis of issues such as property crime, homicide, violent crime, perceptions of police and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour. Together these statistics inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy.

In January 2014 the UK Statistics Authority published an assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, were found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. Data from the CSEW continue to be badged as National Statistics.

In future publications, ONS will continue to publish and provide commentary on police recorded crime data. This is pending consultation with users regarding their needs for such information in light of the ongoing inspection of data integrity by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary being published in autumn 2014. For more information see Section 3.3.

The dates of forthcoming crime statistics publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html.

Copies of ONS statistical bulletins on crime are available from the ONS website.

For further information about the CSEW and police recorded crime statistics, please email crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Crime Statistics and Analysis Division, Office for National Statistics, Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5RR.

Crime statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are collected and published separately. The latest police recorded crime data for Scotland and Northern Ireland can be downloaded from:

- Scotland: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice;
- Northern Ireland: http://www.psni.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics.htm.

1.2 Changes resulting from the National Statistician's review

The National Statistician's review specified several recommendations to be addressed. This included ONS developing proposals for the future dissemination of crime statistics, with the aim of improving the presentation for users and providing a clearer picture of crime. The consultation ran at the end of 2012, setting out proposed changes to the content of regular crime statistics outputs, and the presentation of the crime classification used in those outputs.

A summary response to the consultation was published in January 2013 with changes to the presentation of police recorded crime statistics implemented in the July 2013 bulletin and changes to CSEW presentation implemented in the July 2014 bulletin. Although the changes included re-classifying some elements of each data series the overall count did not change. Changes to the presentation included:

- the introduction of a new high level 'theft offences' category; and,
- the movement of some individual offences between categories.
- for police recorded crime the formation of two broad categories to distinguish between crimes with a specific identifiable victim (referred to as "Victim-based crime") and those without a direct victim (referred to as "Other crimes against society"),
- for CSEW robbery was moved from violence into a separate standalone category

A more in-depth explanation of police recorded re-classifications can be found in the : Methodological note: Presentational changes to National Statistics on police recorded crime in England and Wales and for the CSEW: Methodological note: Presentational and methodological changes to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

There have also been a number of other changes to the presentation of crime statistics. Fraud has been updated in the latest quarterly bulletin to reflect new operational arrangements in reporting and recording practice. Specifically, fraud data presented in the police recorded crime series now presents offences recorded by Action Fraud, a public facing national reporting centre which records incidents of fraud and internet crime directly from the public and other organisations. More detail on this is given in Chapter 5.4 of this user guide.

Chapter 2: Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

2.1 Description of the survey

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), formerly known as the British Crime Survey (BCS), is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to the interview. Respondents to the survey are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues, such as the police and the criminal justice system and perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Following crime statistics reviews (Smith, 2006; Statistics Commission, 2006) and feasibility work (Pickering et al., 2008) the CSEW was extended to include 10 to 15 year olds[1] from January 2009. The first results for this age group were published in Millard and Flatley, 2010 as experimental statistics. Estimates of victimisation against children are presented within the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales.

The key aim of the CSEW is to provide robust trends for the crime types and population it covers; the survey does not aim to provide an absolute count of crime and has notable exclusions. The CSEW excludes fraud (see below) and those crimes often termed as 'victimless' (for example, possession of drugs). As a survey that asks people whether they have experienced victimisation, homicides cannot be included. The CSEW does not cover the population living in group residences (for example, care homes or halls of residence) or other institutions, nor does it cover crime against commercial or public sector bodies. Following a recommendation made in the National Statistician's review of crime statistics (National Statistician, 2011), the Home Office commissioned a new survey of business crime to run in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Detailed findings for the latest Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) 2013 were published by the Home Office in June 2014. A summary of results are also incorporated in ONS quarterly crime statistics bulletins.

For the crime types and population it covers, the CSEW provides a better reflection of the true extent of crime experienced by the population resident in households in England and Wales than police recorded statistics because the survey includes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. The primary purpose of the CSEW is to provide national level estimates but some headline figures are available at regional level.

The CSEW is also a better indicator of long-term trends, for the crime types and population it covers, than police recorded crime because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police or police recording practices. The methodology and the crime types included in the main count of crime have remained comparable since the survey began in 1981. As a result, the CSEW

[1] For a report on the extensive development and testing work carried out to extend the CSEW to children aged 10 to 15 see Fitzpatrick et al., 2010.

does not capture relatively new crimes, such as plastic card fraud, in its main crime count. However, additional questions have been added to the survey to investigate the extent and trends of such issues and these are reported separately to the main CSEW crime count.

CSEW estimates for 2013/14 are based on face-to-face interviews with 34,906 adults aged 16 and over; a further 2,902 children aged 10 to 15 took part in the children's survey. The CSEW response rate remains relatively high (75 per cent to the adult survey and 68 per cent of eligible children[2] within households participating in the adult survey responded in 2013/14). The survey is weighted to adjust for possible non-response bias to ensure the sample reflects the profile of the general population. Being based on a sample survey, CSEW estimates are subject to a margin of error. Unless otherwise specified, any changes in CSEW estimates over time that are described as differences in statistical bulletins are statistically significant ones (see Chapter 8).

Annual Technical Reports provide further detailed information on the survey design and methodology; including response rates (see TNS-BMRB, 2013).

2.2 CSEW methodology

The CSEW was first conducted in 1982 (covering crime in 1981) and ran at mostly two-year intervals until 2001[3], when it became a continuous survey. Although there have been changes to the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences have been held constant throughout the life of the CSEW. The core sample is designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and people living in those households. As such, it is possible to use the small users' Postcode Address File (PAF), which is widely accepted as the best general population sampling frame in England and Wales[4]. As mentioned earlier, the CSEW does not cover the population living in group residences or other institutions, although excluding the minority of the population that lives in such establishments is thought to have little effect on CSEW estimates (see Pickering et al., 2008).

At each sampled address the interviewer is required to establish that the address is eligible; ineligible addresses include vacant properties, second homes, non-residential addresses and establishments where people are living in group residences, for example, care homes or halls of residence. In the rare situations where one PAF address leads to two households, the interviewer randomly selects which household to approach.

Once the household is determined to be eligible, a sole adult is selected at random for interview. No substitutes are permitted. Where applicable a sole child aged 10 to 15 is also selected at random to be interviewed in households that have taken part in the main survey[5]. Again, no substitutes are permitted.

[2] It is not possible to calculate the true composite response rate for children as it is not known what proportion of non-responding households contain children in the eligible age-range. If this was in the same proportion as in responding households, the child response rate would be around 50 per cent.
[3] Prior to 2001, CSEWs were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. Scotland was also included in the survey prior to 1992.
[4] The small users' PAF has been the sampling frame for the CSEW since 1992 – it lists all postal delivery points in England and Wales (almost all households have one delivery point or letterbox).
[5] In households with only one 10 to 15 year old: in the 2009/10 CSEW the child was eligible to be interviewed in 87.5 per cent of cases and since the 2010/11 CSEW the child has been eligible for interview in all cases (see TNS-BMRB, 2012).

The overall sample size for the CSEW has been reduced from 46,000 households per year in the year ending March 2012 to 35,000 households in the year ending March 2013. The sample size reduction took 12 months to implement and readers of the quarterly bulletin will have seen a gradual decrease in the unweighted bases referenced in tables as data based on the old sample of 46,000 households reduced to the new sample size of 35,000 households. The survey sample of children aged 10 to 15[6] automatically reduced from 4,000 children per year in year ending March 2012 to 3,100 in the year to March 2013.The cluster design of the sample was also revised for 2012/13. The prior sample design employed between 2008 and 2012 had been a mixed design, differing between three types of area, each type defined by the spatial density of its addresses. In high density areas the sample was unclustered, while in other areas the sample was clustered with 32 addresses issued in each sampled Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA). In low density areas, a pair of Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) was sampled in each sampled MSOA and 16 addresses issued in each one. There is a correlation between the spatial density of addresses and the degree to which victimisation rates vary between neighbourhoods. Consequently, unclustered samples in these areas yielded estimates with greater precision than clustered samples. Inclusion of an unclustered sample component not only improved the precision in these areas but brought a net increase in precision for national and police force area estimates as well. This design was further developed in two ways for the 2012/13 survey:

The unclustered sample design in high density areas was extended so that three-year datasets became unclustered in every type of area. This was achieved by ensuring that every sample cluster was used at least once over the course of the three year period April 2012 to March 2015. Bespoke sample clusters (relating to victimisation rates) that were more heterogeneous than MSOAs were used, with the aim of increasing the precision of annual estimates. For full details of the new design including a description of the creation of the bespoke cluster design see Survey Methodology Bulletin, No 71, September 2012**.**

The current CSEW sample is designed to yield interviews with a nationally representative sample of 35,000 households in England and Wales each year. With the exception of the City of London PFA (which for the purpose of analysis is merged with the Metropolitan PFA), the sample is designed to yield a minimum of 650 interviews with adults (aged 16 years and over) in each one of the 42 territorial PFAs. The requirement for a minimum sample of 650 interviews was introduced in 2012 prior to the transfer of responsibility for the survey from the Home Office to the Office for National Statistics and replaced the previous sample design of 1,000 interviews in each PFA. The driver for the reduction in the sample size was both the abolition of central targets for police forces and the outcome of the Government's 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The Home Office conducted a consultation with users and concluded that reducing the sample size was the best option available and that the new design would not introduce any discontinuity to key CSEW estimates or trends and lead to 'fairly modest' reductions in the precision of estimates at PFA level.

Although CSEW response rates vary from year to year the target sample sizes are always achieved, either by increasing the sample size when the response rates falls, or reducing the

[6] The current sample size is designed to be able to produce reliable estimates of crimes and crime-related attitudes and experiences at a national level on an annual basis; to provide more detailed breakdowns would require a large expansion of the sample at substantial cost (to expand the children's sample would require an even greater expansion of the core sample (less than 15 per cent of households have children in the eligible age range).

number of repeat calls to sampled households when the response rate increases. Table 2a shows the small variations in the achieved sample size for each year compared to the actual response rate as well as other sampling changes that have occurred over the life of the survey.

Whilst maintaining an achieved sample size helps uphold the precision of the survey's estimates it cannot compensate for variations in non response bias when the response rate varies. To help minimise any bias the survey has been successful in maintaining a very high response rate with little variation between years (73-75% over the past 10 years). The CSEW also uses calibration weighting to adjust for differential non-response (see section 8.2) further reducing the chances of bias. In addition an evaluation of non response bias is conducted each decade on the CSEW by comparing Census results with both CSEW responders and non-responders. Results of the 2011 Census non response link study using CSEW data will be published shortly in the ONS Survey Methodology bulletin.

Table 2a CSEW sample history

	1982	1984	1988	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Survey company	SCPR	NOP	SCPR/ NOP	SCPR	OPCS	SCPR	SCPR	SCPR & ONS	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB	TNS-BMRB
Core sample size	10,905	11,030	10,392	10,059	14,520	16,348	14,947	19,411	8,973	32,787	36,450	37,931	45,120	47,796	47,203	46,983	46,286	44,638	46,754	46,031	34,880	34,906
Response rate	81%	77%	77%	77%	77%	83%	79%	74%	73%	73%	74%	75%	75%	75%	75%	76%	76%	76%	76%	75%	73%	75%
Sampling frame	ER	ER	ER	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF	PAF
Ethnic boost sample	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Young adults boost sample	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Weights used	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Weighta Weightb Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti	Indivwgt Hhdwgt Weighti
CAPI/ PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	PAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI	CAPI
No. of victim forms	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Self-completion element	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sample type	Over sampled in inner city areas							Proportional sample	Over sampled in less populous PFAs (minimum = 600)				Over sampled in less populous PFAs									
													minimum = 1,000								Minimum= 650	

SCPR – Social and Community Planning Research has now changed its name to National Centre for Social Research (NCSR)

OPCS merged with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in 1998 to form the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

TNS-BMRB – Taylor Nelson Sofres - British Market Research Bureau

ER – Electoral Register; PAF – (Small Users) Postcode Address File

PAPI – Paper and Pencil Interviewing; CAPI – Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing

2.3 CSEW interviewing

CSEW estimates are based on analysis of structured face-to-face interviews carried out using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) where interviewers record responses to the questionnaire on tablets. The mode of interview changed in the 1994 CSEW from a paper-based questionnaire to CAPI. CAPI allows logic and consistency checks to be incorporated into the survey to improve data quality. For example, the interviewer is unable to move on to the next question until a discrepancy or inconsistency has been resolved.

The main CSEW questionnaire has a complex structure consisting of a core set of modules asked of the whole sample, a set of modules asked only of different sub-samples, and self-completion modules asked of all respondents aged 16 to 59. Modules include, for example: victimisation; performance of the criminal justice system (CJS); contact with and attitudes to the police and the CJS; mobile phone theft; anti-social behaviour; plastic card fraud; mass marketing fraud; on-line security; and demographic characteristics of the respondent and household.

The primary objective of extending the survey to children aged 10 to 15 was to provide estimates of the levels of crime experienced by children and their risk of victimisation[7]. Like the adult survey, the children's survey also gathers information on a limited number of crime-related topics such as children's experiences of and attitudes to the police and personal safety. Some results from these supplementary topics were published in Hoare et al., 2011 and Smith et al., 2012.

Survey development is carried out on an annual basis to reflect emerging issues. While the wording of victimisation questions has not changed and these are included every year, the precise set of other modules asked in each survey year varies.

Self-completion modules are used in the CSEW to collect information on topic areas that respondents could feel uncomfortable talking about to an interviewer. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on sensitive issues due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey. Respondents can complete these modules on the interviewer's tablet by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) and, when finished, their answers are hidden. Children also have the option of Audio-CASI, which allows them to listen to questions via headphones and can help those with literacy problems (74 per cent did not use this option at all in the 2013/14 CSEW). The self-completion modules are at the end of the face-to-face interviews and, for adults, cover topics such as illicit drug use[8], domestic violence and sexual assault. Child respondents are asked a limited set of questions by self-completion on issues such as bullying, truancy and use of alcohol or cannabis.

Self-completion modules were first included in the 1996 and 2001 CSEWs to improve estimates of domestic violence (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004) and a similar module has been included since the 2004/05 CSEW. The self-completion module on illicit drug use was introduced in 1996 and comparable questions have been asked since then. These questions are not asked of children on the CSEW.

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[7] The question set for children aged 10 to 15 was specifically designed for this age range while retaining broad comparability with the adult questionnaire in terms of the classification of offences.
[8] See Section 5.5 for further details.

For the 2010/11 CSEW, an alternative set of questions were developed to measure the prevalence of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking in the self-completion module. The alternative set of questions were included in 2011/12 and 2012/13 as part of a split-sample.These formed part of a split-sample experiment to assess the effect of question changes on estimates of prevalence of these offence types. Results from this experiment have been published (Hall and Smith, 2011) and formed the basis of a public consultation on questions to include in the CSEW self-completion module in future (Home Office, 2012). As of 2013/14 the split-sample was dropped and just the new questions were asked.

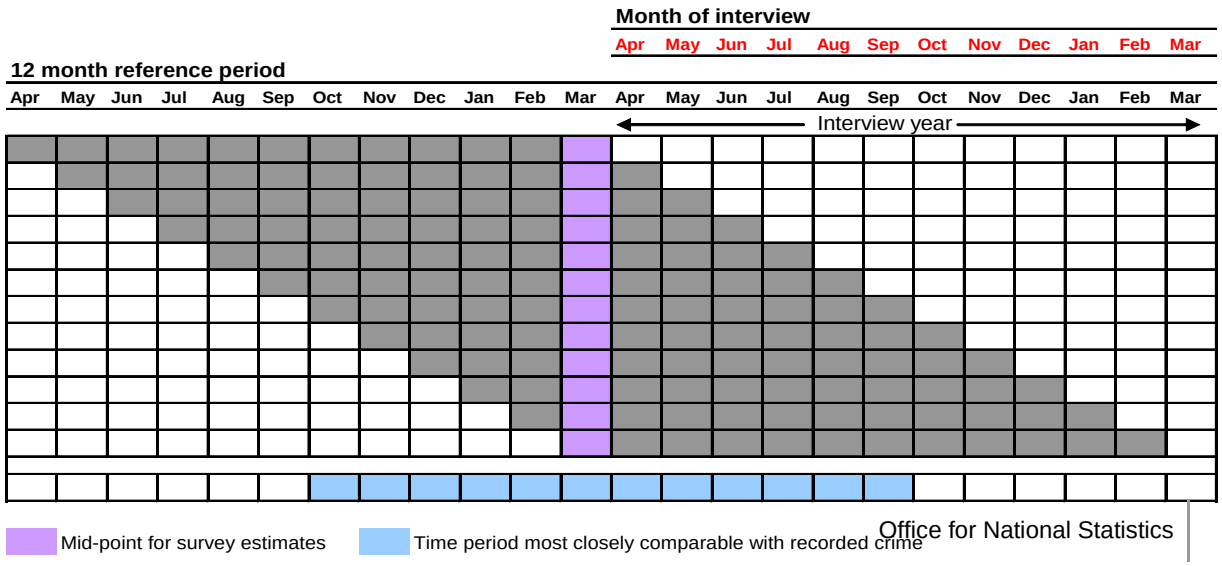
2.4 Time periods covered

Prior to 2001/02, CSEW respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year but when the CSEW changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Since becoming a continuous survey, CSEW estimates are published based on interviews carried out over a 12-month period; for example, for the publication of the 2013/14 CSEW, estimates are derived from interviews carried out between April 2013 and March 2014 (year ending March 2014).

As respondents are interviewed on a rolling basis over the course of a year, the time period covered by the data is not directly comparable with any calendar year. Therefore, tables and figures including trends over time refer to the year in which the crime took place for interviews prior to 2001/02 (so interviews conducted in 1996 relate to victimisation in 1995, and will be labelled as 1995 in tables and figures) and the year in which the survey interviews took place for interviews since 2001/02. Other questions on the CSEW (for example, attitudes to policing, confidence in the CJS) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed.

Since respondents are interviewed at different times within each month, they are asked about experiences of crime in the current month plus in the 12 months prior to interview. Crimes experienced in the 'interview' month are excluded from the 12-month reference period used for analysis. Hence for the 2013/14 CSEW, the reference period includes incidents experienced by respondents between April 2012 and February 2014. The centre point of the period for reporting crime is March 2013, the only month to be included in all respondents' reference periods (Figure 2a).

Figure 2a: The reference period in one year of CSEW interviews (April – March)


Month of interview
Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar
12 month reference period
Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar
Interview year
Mid-point for survey estimates
Time period most closely comparable with recorded crime

Averaging over the moving reference period of the CSEW generates estimates that are most closely comparable with police recorded crime figures to the end of the September six months earlier. For example, CSEW figures from the 2013/14 survey are most closely comparable with police recorded crime statistics for the 12 months to the end of September 2013.

The Home Office commissioned methodological work to consider the use of an alternative method of presenting the data based on crimes experienced in a particular year. Tipping et al., 2010, compared the trajectory of a range of crime types presenting the data based on the year the interview took place compared with the year the incident took place. There was no evidence that this different basis for reporting would have produced different findings over the period of 2001 to 2009. However, during this period a steady decline in crime was experienced. Tipping et al. also noted that moving to presenting data based on the year that the incident took place would mean that analysts would have to wait an additional year before a complete dataset would be available to them. No changes were made to the CSEW as a result of this study.

2.5 CSEW measures of crime

The CSEW provides estimates of the levels of household and personal crimes experienced by respondents. Household crimes are considered to be all vehicle and property-related crimes and respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in the household has experienced any incidents within the reference period. An example of a household crime would be criminal damage to a car (the owner of which could be anyone in the household). Personal crimes relate to all crimes against the individual and only relate to the respondent's own personal experience (not that of other people in the household). An example of a personal crime would be an assault.

Published CSEW data excludes sexual offences (except for 'wounding with a sexual motive') as the number of sexual offences picked up by the survey is too small to give reliable estimates. See Chapter 5 for a full definition of offence types.

Details of experiences of crime are recorded in a series of victim modules. The first three victim modules include detailed questions relating to each incident; the last three victim modules are shorter modules, designed to be much quicker to complete to avoid respondent fatigue during the interview. The order in which the victim modules are asked depends on the type of crime – less common crimes are prioritised in order to collect as much detailed information as possible. Respondents are asked about their experiences of crime in the 12-month reference period and up to six victim modules can be completed by each respondent.

Extending the CSEW to encompass children's experience of crimes raised some difficult issues with regard to classifying criminal incidents; for example, minor incidents that are normal within the context of childhood behaviour and development can be categorised as criminal when existing legal definitions of offences are applied. Millard and Flatley, 2010, proposed four methods for counting crime against children. Following a National Statistics consultation with users, these measures have been refined. Responses to the user consultation suggested there was some value

in all approaches, but the majority favoured the 'Broad' and 'Preferred' based measures with regard to estimating levels of victimisation[9].

Of the other two methods, there was least support during the consultation for the subjective approach which included only offences perceived to be a crime by the respondent ('Victim perceived') and some limited interest from users in the presentation of the 'All in law outside school' approach (includes all incidents reported by children that are in law a crime except those occurring in school).

The 'Broad measure' (previously known as the 'All in law' approach) is the widest-possible count but will include minor offences between children and family members that would not normally be treated as criminal matters. The 'Preferred measure' (previously known as the 'Norms-based' approach) is a more focused method which takes into account factors identified as important in determining the severity of an incident but will still include incidents of a serious nature even if they took place at school.

The 'Preferred measure' includes all offences where:

- the offender[10] was not known (for example, stranger, tradesman, pupil from another school); or
- the offender[11] was known, but aged 16 or over and not a family member (for example, neighbour, older friend, teacher)[11]; or
- the offender[11] was known and either a family member or aged under 16 (for example, parent, sibling, school-friend) and there was visible injury or theft or damage involving a 'high value' item[12]; or
- a weapon[13] was involved.

In 2009/10 and 2010/11 a lower level of detail was collected if:

- the incident happened at school; and
- the offender[14] was a pupil at the respondent's school; and
- the offender did not use a weapon[14]; and
- the victim was not physically hurt in any way.

This was to reduce respondent burden and to reflect that some incidents reported by children may be considered relatively minor. Incidents which met these criteria had a limited amount of information collected to enable classification to a high-level crime category and so it was not

[9] Since 2010/11, while only two measures are being presented in crime statistics bulletins, data are still collected to enable the other measures to be derived; these will be made publicly available through the Economic and Social Data Service.
[10] If there was more than one offender, the incident was included if just one of the offenders matched this criteria.
[11] The inclusion of offences committed by a known non-family member irrespective of the nature of the offence represents a change to the approach used for the 'Norms-based' measure that was previously published in Millard and Flatley, 2010. This recognises the importance of age in addition to relationship in classifying the severity of an incident.
[12] This excludes items such as pens, stationery, food, toys, cards, cigarettes.
[13] A 'weapon' constitutes any item that was considered to be a weapon by the victim; this includes knives, sticks, stones, bottles, etc.
[14] Where there was more than one offender, detailed information was collected if any of the offenders were not pupils at the respondent's school.

possible to assign specific offence codes within the appropriate high-level classification according to standard CSEW procedures. As a result, these cases have been designated as 'unspecified' offences. Without an offence code it is not possible to tell which detailed crime type the offence would be classified as. For example, data on whether the stolen item was being carried by the respondent at the time of a theft were not collected, so it is not feasible to determine whether this would be 'Theft from the person' or 'Other theft of personal property'. However, because the respondent reported that there was intent to commit an offence, these incidents are still considered offences under law.

'Unspecified' offences do not fall within the scope of the 'Preferred measure' because the detailed information above was not collected.

In 2011/12 this was changed and full information was collected about all incidents of crime. This means that the 'unspecified' categories are not derivable and the data are not directly comparable over the three time periods. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 children aged 10 to 15 were asked detailed information about up to four crimes, from 2011/12 this was reduced to three.

A minor revision has been made to the calculation of the preferred measure in the 2012/13 survey relating to the classification of incidents in terms of the intention to commit an offence and whether the incident should be classed as serious or non-serious. The need for this revision was identified when, during a broader programme of work to reweight survey estimates, a failure to implement a previous methodological change was uncovered. These changes had the effect of reducing estimates for the preferred measure (in particular, for personal theft and vandalism). Revised estimates have been produced for the 2012/13 CSEW, and as a result some figures in the preferred measure may differ from those that were previously published.

Some methodological differences between the adult and children's survey mean that direct comparisons cannot be made between the adult and child victimisation data, although these estimates are presented in the same publication to provide a better understanding of victimisation experiences among adults and children resident in households.

Most incidents reported are one-off, single occurrences, but in a minority of cases respondents may have been victimised a number of times in succession. In these cases respondents are asked whether they consider these incidents to be a 'series'; that is "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where incidents are determined to be in a series, the number of incidents is recorded, but with only one victim module being completed based on the most recent incident. CSEW estimates only include the first five incidents in this 'series' of victimisations in the count of crime.

Overall, each adult respondent can have a maximum of 30 incidents contained in the count of crime; a maximum of six victim modules with a maximum of five incidents on each victim module[15]. In practice, most adult respondents have far fewer than this. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 each child respondent could have a maximum of four victim modules, again with a maximum of five incidents on each. The maximum number of modules for children was reduced to three from 2011/12 with

[15] A victim module is completed for every incident, or series of incidents, that the respondent or their household has been a victim of, and collects details of the offence such as the severity of injury sustained and the offender characteristics.

the re-structure of the victimisation module (in practice, very few child respondents to date had completed four victim modules). For details on victimisation data collection see TNS-BMRB, 2012.

The restriction to the first five incidents in a series has been applied since the CSEW began in order to ensure that estimates are not affected by a very small number of respondents who report an extremely high number of incidents and which are highly variable between survey years. In the US National Violence Against Women Survey, which did not include a capping procedure, 24 respondents had been victims of rape in the preceding 12 months. One of these victims had been raped 24 times in this time period and when weighted to the population this victim accounted for 302,100 incidents estimated from the survey: 34 per cent of the total (Rand and Rennison, 2005). The inclusion of such victims could undermine the ability to measure trends consistently. This sort of capping is in line with other surveys of crime and other topics. Prevalence rates are not affected by this procedure (see TNS-BMRB, 2012, for information on the measurement of series data).

Based on information collected and processed from the adult and child victim modules, specially trained coders determine whether what has been reported constitutes a crime and if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime. The full list of CSEW offence codes is shown in Appendix 2. CSEW crime statistics are produced from these data and presented as incidence or prevalence rates, based on counts of incidents or victims.

Incidence rate

The number of crimes experienced per household or adult/child

The incidence rate takes account of the number of times respondents have been victimised. Aggregating these incidents and combining with household and personal data, produces a number of incidents that can be presented as a rate per 1,000 households (for household crimes) or as a rate per 1,000 adults/children (for personal crimes).

The overall **number of incidents** can be estimated for England and Wales based on the incidence rate and using population estimates for the household and adult populations. In 2013/14 incidence rates for household-level crimes were multiplied by 23,850,600 households and, for personal-level crimes, by 45,282,400 adults aged 16 and over or 3,763,400 children aged 10 to 15 to provide the number of incidents for each crime type (all rounded to the nearest 100). Published estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000 incidents. See Chapter 8 for further information on population and household data used in the calculation of CSEW incidents.

Prevalence rate

The proportion of the population who were victims of an offence once or more

Unlike incidence rates, prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime once or more in the reference period, not the number of times victimised. These figures are based on information from the victim module, where respondents and their households are designated either as victims or non-victims. The proportion that are victims provides the prevalence rate, often described as the risk of being a victim of crime – this describes only an average rate. Analysis of the CSEW shows that victimisation rates vary depending on factors associated with personal, area and household characteristics (see, for example, Flatley et al., 2010)

Since the CSEW also collects additional information from households, it is possible to determine prevalence rates for subgroups, such as vehicle or bicycle-owning households. Risk among these groups is higher than for the population in general, of course, as the household population includes those who do not own vehicles or bicycles.

Multiple and repeat victimisation

Multiple victimisation is defined as the experience of being a victim of more than one crime in the previous year. This includes those who have been victims of more than one crime of the same type within the last 12 months (repeat victimisation) and also those who have been victims of more than one CSEW crime of any type within the last 12 months. People who have experienced multiple victimisation include those who have been a victim of more than one personal crime, or have been resident in a household that was a victim of more than one household crime, or have been a victim of both types of crime.

Repeat victimisation (a subset of multiple victimisation) is defined as being a victim of the same type of crime (for example, vandalism) more than once in the last 12 months. Levels of repeat victimisation account for differences between incidence and prevalence rates. For instance, high levels of repeat victimisation will be reflected in lower prevalence rates compared with incidence rate.

2.6 CSEW revisions policy

The general principle applied to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) will be that when data are found to be in error, both the data and any associated analysis that has been published by ONS will be revised in line with ONS Revisions and corrections policy.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales revisions policy covers:

- All Approved Researcher Special Licence Datasets held by funding departments, the UK Data Archive and the ONS Virtual Microdata Laboratory (VML);
- All End User Licence Datasets held by funding departments and the UK Data Archive;
- Data appearing in Quarterly Bulletins; Focus On publications, Short Stories, ad hoc data requests, and any other form of ONS publication which utilises data from the CSEW.

There are a number of reasons why ONS may wish to revise CSEW data, once it has been published and/or the datasets disseminated:

- Errors are discovered in raw, or derived variables;
- New derived variables are issued;
- It is decided that the methodology used to calculate a variable needs to be amended;
- Re-weighting is performed following revision to population estimates.

While every effort is made to thoroughly check the data before it is either published or released for dissemination, errors do on occasion occur. In these instances the following procedure is followed:

The problem is identified and reported to ONS Analysis and Data Access Division (ADA) for consideration. ONS then establish whether there is an error and whether a revision is necessary (if

an error is only minor, it is unlikely ONS will reissue a dataset, instead recording the error in the User Guide). The error will be corrected by ADA and ONS analysts will check the revision, recording the impact of the revision in terms of scale and necessary publication revisions. A notice will then be issued to those organisations in receipt of CSEW data, including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, other government departments detailing the error and its impact. The necessary revisions will be made to any publications using ONS procedures. The datasets will be re-issued to UKDA, VML and other data users. All users of the datasets affected will be informed that revisions have been made. Timing: The revisions will be made as soon as the impact of the error has been established and it is possible to carry out any amendments to ONS publications.

New derived variables

If new derived variables (DVs) are issued, and no existing DVs are revised, it will not be necessary to re-issue the datasets affected, but simply to issue the new DV which can be appended to the existing datasets. Timing: Any new DVs will be issued as soon as they are available and have been checked (though if a number of DVs are to be added they will be added in one go).

Methodological changes

The CSEW was first conducted in 1982 (covering crime in 1981) and ran at mostly two-year intervals until 2001, when it became a continuous survey. Although there have been changes to the survey over time, the wording of the questions that are asked to elicit victimisation experiences have been held constant throughout the life of the CSEW. The core sample has always been designed to be representative of the population of households in England and Wales and people living in those households. Where a methodological change is required the impact on current and past datasets will need to be assessed and a revision policy developed, giving careful consideration to any effect on the long time series of data available.

Chapter 3: Police recorded crime

3.1 Introduction to police recorded crime

In January 2014 the UK Statistics Authority published it's assessment of ONS crime statistics. It found that statistics based on police recorded crime data, having been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, did not meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. For more information see Section 3.3.

Recorded crime figures are an important indicator of police workload. They can be used for local crime pattern analysis and provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes (in particular, homicide, which is not covered by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)). There are also some categories of crime (such as drug possession offences) where the volume of offences recorded are heavily influenced by police activities and priorities; in such cases recorded crime figures may not provide an accurate picture of the true extent of criminality.

Unlike the CSEW, recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record as crimes. It was estimated in 2013/14 that around 43 per cent of CSEW comparable crime was reported to the police, although this proportion varied considerably for individual offence types.

Police recorded crime data are supplied to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by the Home Office, who are responsible for the collation of recorded crime data supplied by the 43 territorial police forces of England and Wales, plus the British Transport Police. These data are supplied to the Home Office on a monthly basis in an aggregated return for each crime within the notifiable offence list (see Appendix 1). They are then quality assured by the Home Office Statistics Unit before they send the final data to ONS at the end of each quarter for final preparation and publication as Official Statistics. Notifiable offences include all offences that could possibly be tried by jury (these include some less serious offences, such as minor theft that would not usually be dealt with this way) plus a few additional closely-related summary offences dealt with by magistrates, such as assault without injury.

The Home Office have been implementing a new data collection system to streamline the process by which forces submit data. The Home Office Data Hub has been designed to replace the current spreadsheet based system with the automated capturing of crime data via direct extracts from forces' own crime recording systems. This reduces the burden on forces in supplying data and reduces the risk of error associated with spreadsheet systems. The police are also able to supply more detailed information to the Home Office Data Hub allowing a greater range of analyses to be carried out.

Forces have been progressively switching over to the Home Office Data Hub. Of the 44 police forces in England and Wales, there are currently 16 forces supplying their recorded crime data solely via this route, accounting for around a third of all crimes. Many more forces are currently parallel running the new system. The Home Office are working with the remaining forces to overcome technical issues involved with such a comprehensive administrative data system. The implementation of the Data Hub system has been subject to some delays. The system was

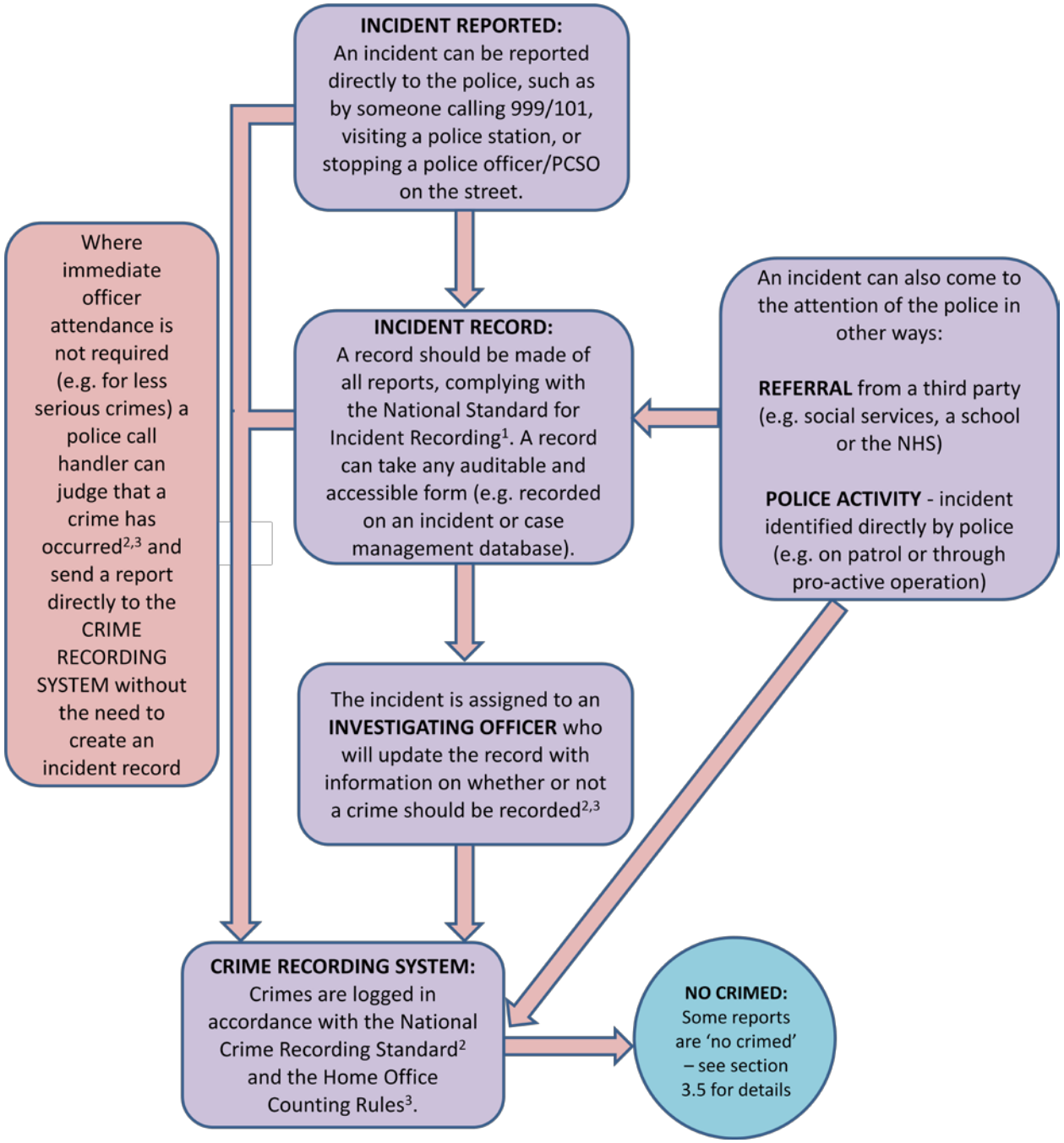
designed to receive data extracts in a standardised format from a management information system that was intended to be used across all forces. However, since the start of the project many police forces chose not to use this management information system (known as the National Management Information System - NMIS). Those forces not using NMIS have been required to create bespoke data extracts from their systems in order to supply information to the Home Office Data Hub and this has meant the delivery for the overall system is taking longer than planned.

Once all forces have switched to supplying data via the Data Hub, and the quality of the data is sufficient, consideration will be given to how the more detailed data can be used. Some of the additional data provided by the Data Hub has already been used in the quarterly crime bulletins. For instance, information from the Data Hub has been used to show how much of the increase in sexual offences seen in recent figures was due to historical sexual offences (due in part to 'Operation Yewtree'). Without the Data Hub, this analysis would not have been possible.

3.2 Compilation of police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales

The crime recording process starts at the point at which an incident comes to the attention of the police. This could be through a victim calling 999 (or reporting it to the police via another means), an incident being referred to the police by another agency, or being identified by the police directly (for example, officers encountering an incident while on patrol). While there are standardised rules used by all police forces to ensure consistency in decisions around when a crime is recorded, and what type of crime it is (see section 3.3 for details) the process by which the incident is subsequently logged and data are extracted for submission to the Home Office for inclusion in the official statistics varies between police forces. Forces use different IT systems, and follow different internal processes in the steps that are followed to record crimes. However, it is possible to summarise the process in general terms (see figure 3a).

Figure 3a: Crime recording process map


INCIDENT REPORTED:
An incident can be reported directly to the police, such as by someone calling 999/101, visiting a police station, or stopping a police officer/PCSO on the street.
Where immediate officer attendance is not required (e.g. for less serious crimes) a police call handler can judge that a crime has occurred[2,3] and send a report directly to the CRIME RECORDING SYSTEM without the need to create an incident record
INCIDENT RECORD:
A record should be made of all reports, complying with the National Standard for Incident Recording[1]. A record can take any auditable and accessible form (e.g. recorded on an incident or case management database).
An incident can also come to the attention of the police in other ways:
REFERRAL from a third party (e.g. social services, a school or the NHS)
POLICE ACTIVITY - incident identified directly by police (e.g. on patrol or through pro-active operation)
The incident is assigned to an INVESTIGATING OFFICER who will update the record with information on whether or not a crime should be recorded[2,3]
CRIME RECORDING SYSTEM:
Crimes are logged in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard[2] and the Home Office Counting Rules[3].
NO CRIMED:
Some reports are 'no crimed' – see section 3.5 for details

1. National Standard for Incident Recording
2. Further information on decisions around when a crime should be recorded is provided in the National Crime Recording Standard.
3. For full definitions of different types of crime recorded by the police see the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime.

In their interim report on crime data integrity, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) provide a clear description of the first stages of the crime recording process. Some extracts from this section of their report are given in Box 3a.

Box 3a Crime recording – extracts from Crime Recording: A matter of fact (HMIC, 2014)

How do forces receive reports of crime

3.40 Police forces receive reports of crime from the public through a number of routes. The two main ones are by telephone:

- directly to a force control room, where an incident record is created and, when it is considered appropriate – sometimes some time later – a crime record is made;
- directly from a victim of a crime to a call-handler where a crime record is made immediately and the victim receives a crime reference number. 3.41 Most other crime is reported to the police through a specialist department, such as through referrals from other statutory bodies and charities, or to officers on the street or at the front counters of police stations.

When is an 'incident' a crime?

3.27 The first principle the police must follow is that all reports of incidents, whether from victims, witnesses or third parties and whether crime-related or not, must result in the registration of an incident report by the police. It is important to note that an incident report can take any form as long as it is auditable and accessible. For example, a report made directly to an officer on the street may be recorded in his pocket book.

3.28 From the moment a victim of crime calls the police, the requirement to record a crime is based on the victim's statement to the police. The allegations about a crime are recorded on the basis of the victim's own account. The correct approach by staff receiving reports of crime is to ask some initial questions to establish the facts, but they do not conduct an investigation.

To determine whether an incident is a crime, the HOCR state that:

"An incident will be recorded as a crime (notifiable to the Home Secretary) for offences against an identified victim if, on the balance of probability:

A. The circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law (the police will determine this, based on their knowledge of the law and counting rules), and

B. There is no credible evidence to the contrary."

This is followed by rule 2:

"For offences against the state the points to prove to evidence the offence must clearly be made out, before a crime is recorded."

3.31 So there are two primary types of crime: the first aimed at identified victims; the second against the state, for example the possession of drugs, carrying a weapon, and public order offences that have no victim.

3.32 Because these rules place an obligation on the police to accept what the victim says unless there is "credible evidence to the contrary", a crime should still be recorded where:

- the victim declines to provide personal details;
- the victim does not want to take the matter further; and
- the allegation cannot be proved.

3.33 The balance of probability test is detailed in the NCRS. It provides that:

"In most cases, a belief by the victim (or person reasonably assumed to be acting on behalf of the victim) that a crime has occurred is sufficient to justify its recording as a crime, although this will not be the case in all circumstances. Effectively, a more victim-orientated approach is advocated."

"An allegation should be considered as made, at the first point of contact, i.e. the stage at which the victim or a person reasonably assumed to be acting on behalf of the victim first makes contact with the police, be that by phone, etc. or in person. If an alleged or possible victim cannot be contacted or later refuses to provide further detail, the Crime Recording Decision Making Process (CRDMP) should be based on all available first contact information."

3.34 The HOCR describe when a crime need not be recorded; if a victim does not confirm a crime, then it is not recorded. For instance, if someone other than the victim reports an apparent street robbery, but police cannot find the victim, then a crime is not recorded, but the incident must be recorded.

3.35 Also, the HOCR do not require a force to record a crime if it happens in another force area or in another country but is reported in England or Wales.

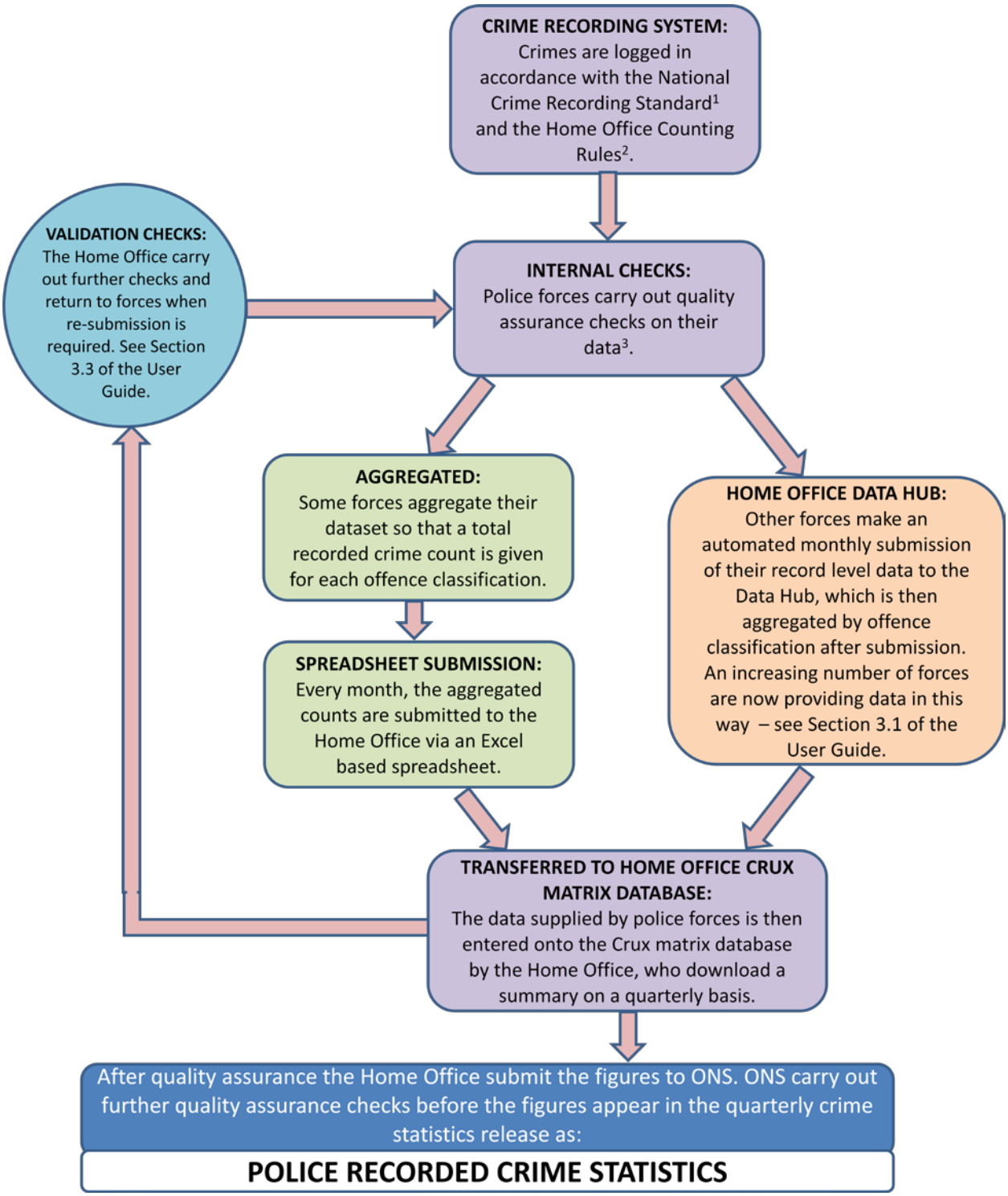
When is an incident not a crime?

3.46 Many incidents reported to the police turn out not to be crimes. For example, someone reports a man on a ladder breaking the first floor window of a house and climbing in. A police patrol immediately goes to the house and finds the man who is inside is the owner and had forgotten his key. When there is such an incident, or when the police have clear evidence to believe that a crime has not been committed, this is not a crime and not recorded as such.

3.47 It should be emphasised that the HOCR do not expect police to record reports of crimes made by a third person (unless that person is reasonably assumed to be acting on behalf of the victim) if the victim cannot be found to verify that a crime has occurred. So, if someone witnesses an assault in the street and reports it to the police, but the victim of the assault is unknown to the witness and cannot be traced, the police are not required to record the incident as a crime. The incident itself must be recorded but, under this rule, the police are actively prevented from recording all the crimes that come to their attention.

ONS have been working with police forces and the Home Office to develop a more thorough understanding of the latter part of the process, concerning how police forces extract data collected on their crime recording systems for submission to the Home Office. For forces that supply data through the Home Office Data Hub, the process involves automated capturing of crime data via direct extracts from forces' own crime recording systems (see section 3.1). In those police forces that have yet to switch to providing data through the Home Office Data Hub, aggregated data are supplied to the Home Office. Information collected from a small number of police forces on the processes used to produce aggregate data and supply it to the Home Office suggest varying systems are used, with some based on more automated approaches while others extract data manually to input onto an Excel spreadsheet. Figure 3b summarises these processes in general terms.

Figure 3b: Data submission process map


CRIME RECORDING SYSTEM:
Crimes are logged in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard[1] and the Home Office Counting Rules[2].
VALIDATION CHECKS:
The Home Office carry out further checks and return to forces when re-submission is required. See Section 3.3 of the User Guide.
INTERNAL CHECKS:
Police forces carry out quality assurance checks on their data[3].
AGGREGATED:
Some forces aggregate their dataset so that a total recorded crime count is given for each offence classification.
SPREADSHEET SUBMISSION:
Every month, the aggregated counts are submitted to the Home Office via an Excel based spreadsheet.
HOME OFFICE DATA HUB:
Other forces make an automated monthly submission of their record level data to the Data Hub, which is then aggregated by offence classification after submission. An increasing number of forces are now providing data in this way – see Section 3.1 of the User Guide.
TRANSFERRED TO HOME OFFICE CRUX MATRIX DATABASE:
The data supplied by police forces is then entered onto the Crux matrix database by the Home Office, who download a summary on a quarterly basis.
After quality assurance the Home Office submit the figures to ONS. ONS carry out further quality assurance checks before the figures appear in the quarterly crime statistics release as:
POLICE RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS

1. Further information on decisions around when a crime should be recorded is provided in the National Crime Recording Standard.
2. For full definitions of different types of crime recorded by the police see the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime.
3. The quality assurance process varies by force but may include checking that expired codes have not been used, or that an offence has not been recorded under more than one offence code.

3.3 Recording practices and data quality

Recorded crime statistics are affected by changes in reporting and recording practices. To ensure consistency, police recording practice is governed by Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These rules provide a national standard for the recording and classifying of notifiable offences by police forces in England and Wales (see Home Office, 2013). In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority de-designated police recorded crime as National Statistics. This was because of ongoing quality concerns.

The HOCR and NCRS

There have been two major changes to the recording of crimes in recent years: in April 1998 the HOCR for recorded crime were expanded to include certain additional summary offences and counts became more victim-based (the number of victims was counted rather than the number of offences); in April 2002, the NCRS was introduced across England and Wales, although some forces adopted key elements of the standard earlier and compliance with the standard continued to improve in the years following its formal introduction. The NCRS was devised by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in collaboration with Home Office statisticians. It was designed to ensure greater consistency between forces in recording crime and to take a more victim-oriented approach to crime recording with the police being required to record any allegation of crime unless there was credible evidence to the contrary (Simmons et al., 2003).

Both these changes resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Certain offences, such as the more minor violent crimes, were more affected by these changes than others. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the trends in recorded crime. For these reasons, statistical bulletins present trends following the introduction of recording changes in police recorded crime from 2002/03.

Each police force has a Force Crime Registrar (FCR) who monitors the application of the Counting Rules and has a final arbiter role with respect to crime recording decisions. A nationally agreed crime data quality audit manual (DQAM) has been developed for use by FCRs. This DQAM is subject to regular review. A national data quality working group meets regularly to consider specific issues, to advise HMIC on inspection activity and to support FCRs in the development of local risk based audits.

Ongoing quality checks and reviews

Ongoing consultation on the formulation and development of the policy on crime recording is provided through working groups comprising members of the Home Office, ONS, police force regional representatives and representatives of ACPO, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Any significant changes proposed by these groups in recording will be considered by the independent Crime Statistics Advisory Committee (CSAC) – established following a recommendation in the National Statistician's review of crime statistics in 2011 – who will advise the Home Secretary and ONS before any final changes are made.

Police recorded crime statistics, like any administrative data, will be affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place, and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing of non-victim based crimes in a given area, such as drug

offences or possession of a weapon, could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. Therefore, when examining trends in police recorded crime data presented in statistical bulletins it is important to pay attention to the commentary, which will explain any caveats associated with the data.

The Police Data Collection Section (PDCS) and Home Office Statisticians both carry out internal quality assurance of the recorded crime data, prior to submitting the data to ONS. These checks include:

- Monthly variation checks – the total number of recorded crimes and the number recorded against each offence type are compared to the previous months' figures to check for any vast deviations from the time series trend.
- Evidence of a high number of 'no crimes' for individual offence types. In particular, homicide offences should not usually be no crimed, so the 'no crime' check includes a flag on any negative homicide offences. For information on no crimes see section 3.5.
- Checks against offences recorded under redundant codes – no offences should be recorded against expired codes, such as fraud offences which should all be recorded under Action Fraud.
- A comparison of the police force area and community safety partnership (CSP) crime counts - in nearly all cases, the total number of recorded crimes for a police force should be the sum of the number of crimes recorded in the corresponding CSP areas.

Additionally, a number of other ad hoc checks are carried out by the Home Office.

Any anomalies or errors identified through these checks result in a report being returned to the relevant force for validation or correction.

Prior to the publication of any crime statistics bulletin a verification exercise is carried out with all forces. The data held on the Home Office database are returned to individual forces asking for confirmation that the data accords with that held on their own systems. Again, forces resubmit data if required.

These checks are subject to continuous development and the Home Office Statistics Unit are currently carrying out an extensive review of quality assurance processes for police recorded crime data.

De-designation of police recorded crime as National Statistics

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority published it's assessment of ONS crime statistics. The Authority noted "accumulating evidence that suggests the underlying data on crimes recorded by the police may not be reliable" (UK Statistics Authority, 2014). As a result, the Authority removed the National Statistics 'badge' from the recorded crime data. Data from the CSEW will continue to be badged as National Statistics.

In future publications, ONS will continue to publish and provide commentary on police recorded crime data. This is pending consultation with users regarding their needs for such information in light of the forthcoming inspection of data integrity by HMIC being published in autumn 2014.Crime recording was previously the subject of independent audit by the Audit Commission. In their assessment of police data quality in September 2007 (Audit Commission, 2007) they commented

that “The police have continued to make significant improvements in crime recording performance and now have better quality crime data than ever before”. Thirty-eight police authorities and forces (88 per cent of the 43 forces)[16] were assessed as “good” or “excellent” for crime data quality, which demonstrates a substantial improvement from 12 in 2003/04 (28 per cent). The remaining five forces were judged “fair”. No police authorities or forces were assessed as having “poor” crime data quality in the 2005/06 or 2006/07 audits.

However, both the UK Statistics Authority (2010) and the National Statistician (2011) highlighted concerns about the absence of such periodic audits. A HMIC quality review in 2009 into the way in which police forces record most serious violence (which at the time was part of a central Government target) found some variation in recording which they partly attributed to the lack of independent monitoring of crime records.

A further HMIC review in line with a recommendation in the National Statistician’s 2011 review of crime statistics looked at police crime and incident reports in all forces in England and Wales (HMIC, 2012). The review looked at a small number of crimes and incident records (fewer than 6,000 across England and Wales) and found that:

- Three-quarters of forces were judged to have made correct crime recording decisions 90% or more of the time with an average of 92% of incidents correctly finalised, indicating a good national standard;
- While the majority of police forces performed well, there remained a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with the recording of crime (a range of between 86% and 100% from the lowest to the highest performing force) which was a cause for concern.

Detailed figures for each police force are available in the HMIC report (see Annex B of the report for a force level data table). Although HMIC’s review was based on a small number of crimes and incident reports, the rate at which a force was judged to be correctly recording incidents as crimes is a factor that should be borne in mind when comparing crime rates between forces. Further concerns over the quality of police recorded crime data were raised through analysis published by ONS in January 2013, which compared trends in police recorded crime with those measured by the CSEW. This analysis showed that between 2002/03 and 2006/07 the reduction in the volume of crime measured by the two series was similar, but between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the gap between the two series widened with the police recorded crime series showing a faster rate of reduction. One possible explanation for this was a gradual erosion of compliance with the NCRS, such that a growing number of crimes reported to the police are not being captured in crime recording systems. For more information see Section 4.2 for more details, or the ‘Analysis of Variation in Crime trends’ methodological note.

PASC inquiry

As part of an inquiry by the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) into crime statistics in late 2013, allegations of under-recording of crime by the police have been made.

This inquiry also heard evidence from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent in which she referred to improvements in crime recording following an HMIC inspection in Kent that reported in February 2013 (HMIC, 2013). HMIC concluded that in Kent the decision to record a crime was

[16] Excludes British Transport Police.

made correctly approximately 90% of the time. In her evidence to the PASC inquiry the Kent PCC reported that subsequent internal audits have indicated compliance with the NCRS has increased to over 95%. This is consistent with the force level breakdown of police recorded crime data which shows a marked increase in the number of crimes recorded in Kent in the last year (up 11% based on data for the year ending March 2014). Action taken in Kent to improve compliance with the NCRS is likely to have been an important factor in driving this increase[17].

The PASC inquiry also heard concerns regarding the accuracy of police recorded crime data for sexual offences in particular. In response to this the Metropolitan Police have announced that they are investigating reports of recording inconsistencies with regards rapes and sexual offences[18]. For more information on no-crimes, see Section 3.5.

ONS are not currently in a position to quantify the level of compliance with the NCRS in other police forces. In the same PASC inquiry the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, outlined how HMIC would be undertaking an inspection of the integrity of police recorded crime during 2014. Findings of the ongoing inspections of crime recording processes and practices will help provide further information on the level of compliance across England and Wales.

An interim report on progress and emerging findings was published in May 2014[19] based on results from the first thirteen forces inspected. HMIC's inspection methodology involves audits of a sample of reports of crime received either through incidents reported by the public, crimes directly reported to a police crime bureau, and those reports referred by other agencies directly to specialist departments within a force. HMIC's aim is to check whether correct crime recording decisions are made in each case. Interim findings include samples from two of the largest forces (Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester Police) and they cover 60% of the overall number of incidents to be sampled for the whole inspection across all 43 territorial police forces. Based on these findings HMIC raised serious concerns in relation to:

- significant under-recording of crime (while emerging findings provide only a partial picture from a subset of forces and selected crime types, were these findings to be reflected across all forces and all crime types it is implied that 20% of crimes may be going unrecorded, though HMIC observed that some forces performed better than others);
- cases where some serious sexual offences were not being recorded; and,
- weak management and supervision of crime recording in some police forces.

Furthermore, other methodology used in the inspections includes:

- examination of key documents held by police forces, including guidance relating to their crime recording processes;
- looking at the proportions of crimes recorded through each of the possible routes for reporting crime (see Box 3a);
- liaison and interviews with senior employees in the police and other interested parties.

[17] See the transcript for the PASC hearing on Crime Statistics, 19 November 2013
[18] The investigation was announced at a recent Home Affairs Select Committee hearing.
[19] The interim report published by HMIC is available at http://www.hmic.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/crime-data-integrity-interim-report.pdf

HMIC's final inspection report, based on inspections in all 43 territorial police forces, will be published in Autumn 2014.

3.4 Changes to recorded crime classifications

On occasion, the structure of the classifications used to compile recorded crime may change. During 2011/12 the Home Office carried out a review of the crime classifications contained within the counting rules to consider to what extent they might be rationalised. This review was geared towards achieving reductions in burden on the police as well as seeking to simplify the classification structure to aid transparency and public understanding. A public consultation was conducted during the autumn of 2011 following which the CSAC considered the various proposals and made recommendations to the Home Secretary.

All of the CSAC papers and letters of advice resulting from that review are available on the CSAC pages of the UK Statistics Authority website.

As a result, from April 2012 the number of crime classifications reduced from 148 to 126. Importantly however, the overall number of crimes were not reduced in any way. There has been no change to the coverage of offences in the police recorded crime series and most changes are presentational, with some offences moving between classifications or being separated out of existing groupings.. This change has no impact on the format of crime statistics published from July 2012. For all categories, a back-series has been created so that long-term trends are consistent from 2002/03. This was when the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced and from when police recorded crime figures are considered comparable.

In response to the National Statistician's recommendation to give users and the public a clearer understanding of the overall picture of crime, classifications used to present police recorded crime statistics from July 2013 have been re-designed to provide a more coherent and consistent set of offence categories and a clearer picture for users. A methodological note was published alongside 'Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2013', published on 18 July 2013, to provide more detail on the changes and to explain their impact on time series for key measures.

One of the important changes was to divide police recorded crimes between two broad categories to distinguish between crimes with a specific identifiable victim (referred to as 'Victim-based crime') and those which do not normally have a direct victim and are more likely to be recorded as a result of proactive enforcement by the police and other authorities (referred to as 'Other crimes against society'). These have been introduced to improve clarity of presentation and comparability with data from the CSEW and will help align police recorded crime figures with other crime reporting tools, for example the Police.uk street level mapping and HMIC crime and policing comparator tools.

A third category was introduced to cover offences of Fraud. Changes to the operational arrangements for the reporting and recording of fraud offences mean that, from April 2013, many fraud offences previously recorded by police forces were recorded centrally by Action Fraud (see Section 5.4 on fraud below).

3.5 ‘No crimes’

Police forces record some crimes which are subsequently ‘no crimed’ where it is determined by the police that no crime actually took place. The HOCR set out circumstances under which a crime report may be ‘no crimed’. These include situations where a crime is considered to have been recorded in error or where, having been recorded, additional verifiable information becomes available that determines that no crime was committed (for further information see the ‘general rules’ section of the HOCR). ‘No crimes’ relate to crimes already recorded and are therefore distinct from incident reports that are not recorded as crimes in the first place.

Crime reports that are ‘no crimed’ are removed from police crime data and thus from the police recorded crime statistics. The majority of ‘no crime’ decisions are made by police forces before data are submitted to the Home Office, and although some revisions are made to published crime statistics as a result of ‘no crimes’, these are typically small.

The Home Office routinely collects data from police forces on the number of incidents that have been recorded as crimes but have then been ‘no crimed’. A table showing the numbers and percentages of ‘no crimes’ by offence group is available (in Table UG9 of the User Guide tables) from the ONS website and by police force area from the Home Office website.

Great care is needed in interpreting ‘no crime’ data. The proportion of ‘no crimes’ does not in itself infer high or low compliance with the overall requirements of the HOCR. Levels of ‘no criming’ are particularly susceptible to local recording practice and the IT systems in use. A police force having a high level of ‘no crimes’ may be indicative of that force having a local recording process that captures all reports as crimes at the first point of contact and before any further investigation has taken place to consider the full facts. Equally a police force with a low level of ‘no crimes’ might be indicative of a recording practice by which reports are retained as incidents only until a fuller investigation has taken place.

In 2012, HMIC in their wider review of crime and incident recording examined force ‘no crime’ processes to determine if decisions to ‘no crime’ were made correctly. In HMIC’s review, which looked at a small number of ‘no crime’ decisions (less than 5,000 across England and Wales), they found that nationally the ‘no crime’ compliance rate was 87 per cent; this was 84 per cent for violent crime. The range for correct ‘no crime’ decisions was between 75 and 100 per cent across all police forces.

3.6 Police recorded crime revisions policy

The recorded crime figures are a by-product of a live administrative system which is continually being updated with incidents that are logged as crimes and subsequently investigated. Some incidents initially recorded as crime may on further investigation be found not to be a crime (described as being ‘no crimed’). Some offences may change category, for example from theft to robbery. The police return provisional figures to the Home Office on a monthly basis and each month they may supply revised totals for months that have previously been supplied. The Home Office Statistics Unit undertake a series of validation checks on receipt of the data and query outliers with forces who may then re-submit data.

Once a quarter, the Home Office Statistics Unit takes a ‘snapshot’ of the live database and sends back to individual forces their figures for quality assurance. Once the quality assurance process is complete, final data is supplied to ONS. Thus it should be noted that figures in one release may differ slightly from ones published later. This does not mean that the figures previously published were inaccurate at the time that they were reported. The size of these revisions tend to be small and it is ONS policy not to revise previously published recorded crime figures unless they arise from a genuine error (for example, a force subsequently reports that when supplying thefts and robbery figures they had been transposed). A data table showing updates to the number of police recorded crimes compared with previously published statistics is released alongside each quarterly bulletin. See table QT1a in the quarterly data tables.

The general principle for any revision will be that when data are found to be in error, both the data and any associated analysis that has been published by ONS will be revised in line with the ONS revisions and corrections policy.

3.7 Published sources of police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales

Police recorded crime statistics for England and Wales are available from a number of different published sources. The main sources are:

- Official statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Home Office Open Data tables
- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Crime and Policing Comparator
- ‘Compare your area’ data available on the Police.uk website
- Local crime maps available on the Police.uk website

While all of the above sources are based on data extracted from police crime recording systems there are a number of important differences between them, both in terms of the data they hold, and their intended use. These are outlined below and summarised in Table3a.

In addition to these sources, local police forces also publish data covering their own areas. There is no standardised format for the release of local data by individual forces. Time periods used and crime types covered as well as frequency of release may vary between police forces.

Official statistics published by ONS

Statistical bulletins published by ONS include data on police recorded crime. These data are based on information supplied by police forces to the Home Office on a monthly basis. After conducting quality assurance the Home Office supply aggregated data to ONS on a quarterly basis. The presentation of data focuses on England and Wales as a whole, although geographic breakdowns by police force and Community Safety Partnership areas are included. The bulletins provide a comprehensive report on the latest crime statistics broken down by individual offence types, presenting these in the context of longer term trends. Where possible, supporting commentary explains possible drivers of changing levels of crime. ONS statistical bulletins also present other sources of statistics (including victimisation data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales

and the Commercial Victimisation Survey) to help provide a fuller picture of trends and patterns in crime.

Home Office Open Data tables

The Home Office publish a set of open data tables on police recorded crime to coincide with the publication of the ONS quarterly statistical bulletin on crime. These tables are based on the same police recorded crime dataset as that used in the ONS statistical bulletin. They provide a breakdown of police recorded crime counts by individual offence classifications for each Community Safety Partnership and police force area.

The open data tables are designed to meet the needs of the expert user. It is a rich source of data with which users are able to conduct their own bespoke analysis. The large data table (available in CSV and ODS formats) requires some manipulation to extract data for specific time periods, areas and offence types. Users can download open data tables from the Home Office pages on gov.uk.

HMIC Crime and Policing Comparator

The Crime and Policing Comparator is HMIC's online tool that brings together a range of data from all 43 police forces across England and Wales for the past three years. It allows users to compare rates of crime between forces using an interactive charting tool. The Crime and Policing Comparator is updated quarterly based on the same police recorded crime dataset as that used in the ONS statistical bulletin.

In addition to police recorded crime the Crime and Policing Comparator provides data on:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by the police
- Quality of service (from victim satisfaction surveys)
- Police force data on finances and workforce

'Compare your area' data available on the Police.uk website

The police.uk website includes police recorded crime data in the Compare Your Area section of the site. This presents data in the form of charts which enable users to compare levels of crime in a local area with other areas (presented at Community Safety Partnership level). The charts help users to understand more about:

- how crime in an area compares with crime in other similar areas
- how crime in an area compares with crime in the rest of the police force area
- how crime has changed over time in an area and in the police force area.

These tables are updated quarterly and are based on the same police recorded crime dataset as that used in the ONS Official Statistics.

Local crime maps available on the Police.uk website

The Police.uk website also provides street level recorded crime counts presented using a crime mapping tool. This allows users to view crime maps for a specific area (for example, their own neighbourhood) and gives a count of crimes in that area as well as an indication of the street location that the crime occurred. The raw data (at street level) can also be downloaded from the police.uk website.

The crime counts are based on data submitted by the police separately from the data used in the ONS official statistics. While these data are ultimately sources from the same police force databases as those used to supply data for the Official Statistics, there are some important differences between the Police.uk crime maps and ONS Official Statistics, most notably that:

- Crime mapper data are published on a monthly basis, providing counts of crime recorded in each calendar month rather than for a quarterly period.
- The crime mapper data are published more quickly (i.e with less lag time between the period to which the data refer and the date of release). However, these data are not subject to the same rigorous quality assurance process as the police recorded crime data published by ONS.
- Due to the monthly publication cycle, crime mapper data are more likely to include crimes where there has been a subsequent decision to 'no-crime' the offence (see section 3.5 for further details).
- Crime mapper data is restricted to those crimes for which geographical location information is available. Crimes without this information are excluded from the map, but an indication of the number of crimes that do not have location information is provided.

Alongside police recorded crime data the crime mapper tool also includes data on anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police and information on justice outcomes in a local area (a 'justice outcome' is a crime that has been resolved by the police or a court).

Table 3a. Published sources of police recorded crime statistics covering England and Wales

Source	Description	What data does it use?	Geographic breakdowns	Frequency of release	Where can you access it/find out more?
Official Statistics published by ONS	Comprehensive quarterly statistical bulletins on crime. Including: - Detailed commentary - Long term trend data - Other sources of crime statistics	Data supplied by police forces to the Home Office - aggregate data returns are subject to comprehensive checks including reconciling figures against forces' own systems. Includes data from the British Transport Police (BTP).	Police force and Community Safety Partnership	Quarterly	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+and+Justice

Home Office Open Data tables	Data files containing PRC figures broken down by offence type, geography and time period. Intended to enable further analysis of data.	As above - Data supplied by police forces to the Home Office - aggregate data returns are subject to comprehensive checks including reconciling figures against forces' own systems. Includes data from the British Transport Police (BTP).	Police force and Community Safety Partnership	Quarterly	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables
HMIC Crime & Policing Comparator	Presents charts comparing police recorded crime data between all police forces in England and Wales.	Published ONS Official Statistics (as above) Excludes data from BTP.	Police force	Quarterly	http://www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator/
'Compare your area' data available on the Police.uk website	Presents charts of police recorded crime at the local area level to enable comparisons between areas.	Published ONS Official Statistics (as above) Excludes data from BTP.	Community Safety Partnership	Quarterly	http://www.police.uk/ See 'Performance' pages of the website
Local crime maps available on the Police.uk website	Presents counts of police recorded crime at street level in the form of crime maps. Intended to provide in indication of recent levels of crime at the neighbourhood level.	Police forces submit recorded crime data that is not subject to the same rigorous level of quality assurance process as the Official Statistics published by ONS.	Street level (minimum of 8 addresses).	Monthly	http://www.police.uk/

Chapter 4: Comparison of the CSEW and police recorded crime

4.1 Comparable subset of crime

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides a measure of the level of crime committed against the population resident in households in England and Wales, whereas recorded crime is a measure of those crimes reported to the police (estimated to be only 43 per cent of CSEW comparable crime in 2012/13) and then recorded by them. The CSEW includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police, but is limited to crimes against people resident in households and also does not cover all crime types (see Chapter 2).

By adjusting each series, comparisons can be made between police recorded crime and the adult element of the CSEW (those aged 16 and over) allowing a better interpretation of overall crime trends. The need for this comparison has been particularly important during periods when various changes have been made to the police recording of crime.

In order to compare the crime rates measured by the CSEW and police recorded crime, a comparable subset of crimes has been created for a set of offences that are covered by both measures. Various adjustments are made to the recorded crime categories to maximise comparability with the CSEW but they are not adjusted to exclude victims of commercial offences and offences committed against those under 16. Over three-quarters of CSEW offences reported via interviews in recent years fall into categories that can be compared with crimes recorded by the police (Table 4a).

Table 4a: Comparable subset of crimes

CSEW category	Recorded crime offence included
Assault with minor injury and wounding	More serious wounding or other act endangering life (5) Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent (5A) Assault with intent to cause serious harm (5D) Less serious wounding (8A) Racially/religiously aggravated less serious wounding (8D) Inflicting GBH without intent (8F) Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury (8G) Racially/religiously aggravated inflicting of GBH without intent (8H) Racially/religiously aggravated ABH or other injury (8J) Poisoning or female genital mutilation (8K) Assault with injury (8N) Racially/religiously aggravated assault with injury (8P)
Assault without injury	Assault without injury on a constable (104) Assault without injury (105A) Racially/religiously aggravated assault without injury (105B)
Robbery	Robbery of personal property (34B)
Theft from the person	Theft from the person (39)
Domestic burglary in a dwelling	Burglary in a dwelling (28A) Attempted burglary in a dwelling (28B)

	Distraction burglary in a dwelling (28C) Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling (28D) Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (29)
Vehicle-related theft	Aggravated vehicle taking (37.2) Theft from a vehicle (45) Theft and unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (48) Vehicle interference and tampering (126)
Bicycle theft	Theft or unauthorised taking of pedal cycle (44)
Criminal damage	Arson (56) Arson endangering life (56A) Arson not endangering life (56B) Criminal damage to a dwelling (58A) Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58B) Criminal damage to a vehicle (58C) Other criminal damage (58D) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling (58E) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling (58F) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle (58G) Racially/religiously aggravated other criminal damage (58H) Racially/religiously aggravated criminal damage (58J)

The mapping between CSEW categories and police recorded offence codes are approximate and categories will not be directly equivalent in all cases.

The comparable subset of crimes included in analyses to explore the issue of a potential divergence between police recorded crime and crime measured by the CSEW (see Section 4.2 below) differs slightly from the list in Table 4a. Arson, other criminal damage and criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling have been omitted from the comparable subset as these will largely comprise crimes against the non-household population.

Reporting rates: findings from the CSEW

The CSEW asks whether incidents were reported, or otherwise came to the attention of the police. These findings reveal considerable differences in reporting rates between different types of offences and some variability in reporting rates over time. For analysis of reasons given for not reporting crime to the police see Flatley et al., 2010.

Discrepancies between the trends in the CSEW and police recorded crime may reflect trends in reporting rates. However, they may also reflect changes in police priorities and recording practices, variation within the CSEW sample and differences in the time period covered between the two sources.

4.2 Analysis of trends in comparable crime

Introduction

In broad terms, the CSEW and recorded crime series have displayed similar trends for overall crime, with some inconsistencies due to reporting and recording changes. Overall both series reveal rises from the early 1980s to peaks in the early to mid-1990s and falls thereafter.

CSEW crime rose steadily from 1981, peaking well over a decade later in 1995. Subsequently, CSEW crime fell markedly between then and the 2004/05 survey. Since then, the underlying trend in CSEW crime has continued downward with some fluctuation in year-to-year estimates.

As outlined in Section 3.3, police recorded crime has been affected by the implementation of both the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) in 1998, and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002. Both resulted in an increase in the number of crimes recorded. Following this however, police recorded crime decreased steadily for a decade.

Despite both CSEW and police recorded crime recording broadly similar trends, closer analysis highlights some differences between the two series. In January 2012 ONS published a methodological note 'Analysis of variation in crime trends', which explored the issue of a possible divergence between police recorded crime and CSEW trends, using two comparable subsets of crime types from both series.

This section updates the analysis conducted in that paper with the most recent data (year to March 2014) available[20].

Ratio comparing CSEW reported crime and police recorded crime

It is possible to calculate a ratio using volume measures of both CSEW and police recorded crime using the comparable subset of crimes outlined in Section 4.1. In theory, if all crimes from the CSEW subset were reported to the police and subsequently recorded by the police, the ratio would be 1. In reality, some variation in the ratio is to be expected due to the inherent variability of sampling associated with the survey.

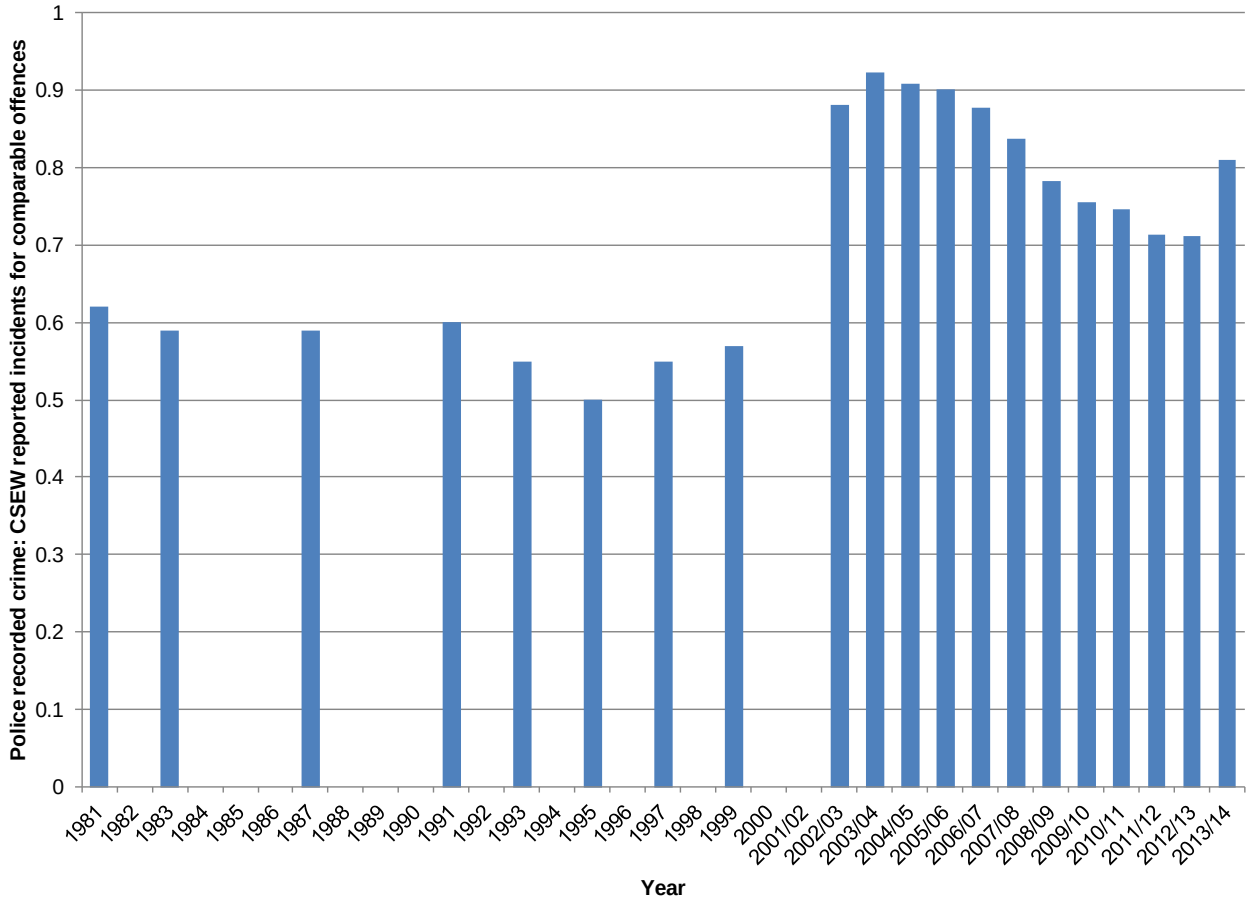
Figure 4a shows that prior to the introduction of expanded HOCR and the NCRS in 1998 and 2002 respectively, the volume of comparable police recorded crime was between 50% and 62% of the total estimated to be reported to the police from the comparable categories of the CSEW. This suggests that a relatively large volume of crime reported by the public to the police were not ultimately being recorded by them.

As expected, this ratio increased substantially around the introduction of the NCRS and from 2002/03 remained around 90% for a number of years. This is consistent with the switch to a more victim-focused method of recording where the police were required to record a victim's report if it amounted to a crime in law and there was no credible evidence to the contrary.

However, from approximately 2007/08 there were year-on-year reductions in the ratio, with the number of police recorded crimes falling as low as 71% of reported crimes in the CSEW in 2011/12 and 2012/13. In the most recent year (to March 2014), the gap between the two series has narrowed substantially, from 71% in 2012/13 to 81% in 2013/14.

[20] Please note that the methodology has been revised since that note was published due to the re-classification and re-weighting of CSEW offences. Further information can be found in the methodological note 'Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales'.

Figure 4a: Ratio between CSEW reported incidents and crimes recorded by the police (in comparable sub-set)



1. The offences included in the comparable sub-set for the period 1981 to 1999 differ slightly from those used from 2002/03 onwards due to changes in offence coverage.

Impact on volumes of crime

Table 4b shows the impact these changes had on the volume of offences. For the first five years after the implementation of the NCRS (2002/03 to 2007/08), there was a similar decline in the two series (20% for police recorded crime and 16% for CSEW crimes reported to the police). Then, for the following five years (2007/08 to 2012/13), the two dropped at markedly different rates, with police recorded crime showing a notably faster rate of decline compared to the CSEW. Over this period police recorded crime decreased by 32%, compared with a 19% fall in CSEW crime. The latest figures (for 2013/14) reflect the sharp turnaround in the ratio between the two series, with police recorded crime dropping just 2% compared to the CSEW decline of 14%.

Table 4b: Volume and percentage reduction in comparable crime categories, 2002/03 to

England and Wales

	2002/03	2007/08	2012/13	2013/14	% change 2002/03 - 2007/08	% change 2007/08 - 2012/13	% change 2012/13 - 2013/14	% change 2002/03 - 2013/14
Police recorded crime	3,229,842	2,574,973	1,761,997	1,722,671	-20	-32	-2	-47
CSEW crimes (reported to police)	3,668,905	3,072,780	2,478,062	2,126,204	-16	-19	-14	-42

1. Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office and Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

2. The methodology used to calculate the number of crimes in the comparable sub-set has been revised slightly since the publication of the methodological note 'Analysis of variation in crime trends' due to a loss of detail for some police recorded crime offences and the inclusion of some CSEW offences previously omitted from the comparable sub-set.

Possible explanations

There is no obvious methodological change to the survey that might explain the gradual separation from 2002/03 to 2012/13, followed by the large increase in 2013/14. One possible hypothesis, given the consistent pattern over a decade, is that there was a gradual erosion of compliance with the NCRS, such that a growing number of crimes reported to the police were no longer being captured in crime recording systems. Then, with regards the dramatic change seen in the data for 2013/14, increased focus on the quality of crime recording by the police (as a result of, for example, the recent PASC inquiry and ongoing HMIC inspections – see Section 3.3 for more details) is likely to have had an effect – through an improvement in compliance levels.

For further discussions on the analysis of trends, including other possible explanations of the diverging trend series, see the Methodological Note: Analysis of variation in crime trends.

Chapter 5: Offence types

All crime is split between two primary offence groups: victim based crimes and other crimes against society. Victim based crimes are those with a specific identifiable victim. All CSEW crime is victim based as it is derived from a survey of people's experiences of crime and must have a victim for it to be recorded. Police recorded crime includes both victim based crimes as well as other crimes which do not normally have a direct victim, referred to as 'Other crimes against society'. Important differences exist between police recorded victim based crime and CSEW crime which mean that the two are not directly comparable. For example the CSEW includes crimes that are not reported to or recorded by the police. The police recorded crime series also covers victims (for example, businesses) not covered by the survey. Police recorded 'Victim based crime' includes: violence against the person; sexual offences; robbery; total theft offences; and criminal damage and arson. Police recorded 'Other crimes against society' includes: drug offences; public order offences; and miscellaneous crimes against society.

5.1 Violent crime

Violent crime covers a range of offence types from minor assaults, such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. This includes offences where the victim was intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed, jostled, etc. as well as offences where the victim was threatened with violence whether or not there is any injury.

In published crime statistics, violent crime – both as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and by police recorded crime – is grouped into two broad, high-level categories: 'Violence with injury' and 'Violence without injury' However, these categories are not directly comparable between the CSEW and police recorded crime; and attempts to cause injury are categorised differently. In addition to the two broad categories, police recorded crime statistics present a separate category for homicide – such offences are not covered by the CSEW as it is a victim-based survey.

In 2013/14, a little under half of all CSEW violent incidents and a little over half of all police recorded violence against the person, resulted in injury to the victim:

- **Violence with injury** includes all incidents of wounding and assault with injury. Homicide is only included for police recorded crime. Police recorded crime also includes attempts at inflicting injury, although the CSEW would not include these if no actual injury occurred.
- **Violence without injury** includes all incidents of assault without injury and, from the CSEW only, attempted assaults. From July 2013, police recorded crime no longer includes under this sub-category, possession of weapons offences and public order offences, such as public fear, alarm or distress. These offences are now included in new sub-categories within 'Other crimes against society' named 'Possession of weapons offences' and 'Public order offences'. In order to produce a consistent time series, the year to March 2013 quarterly publication (and all subsequent publications) retrospectively applied the agreed changes to the police recorded crime classification to all data from 2002/03.

Police recorded crime statistics for violence, especially less serious violence, are particularly affected by changes in recording practice over time; for the population and crime types it covers, the CSEW is the better measure for long-term national trends in violence. Police statistics are important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with and recorded by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the CSEW. Police statistics also provide more reliable information on less common crimes, such as robbery, and are currently the only source of data on homicides and offences against those not resident in households.

CSEW violence

CSEW violent crime is categorised in two other ways: by offence type and according to the victim-offender relationship. CSEW offence types are as follows (estimates for wounding, assault with minor injury and assault without injury add up to overall violence):

- **Wounding**: the incident results in severe or less serious injury, for example, cuts, severe bruising, chipped teeth, bruising or scratches requiring medical attention or any more serious injuries.
- **Assault with minor injury**: an incident where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled and the incident resulted in minor injury to the victim, for example, scratches or bruises.
- **Assault without injury**: an incident (or attempt) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but resulted in no injury.

The categories of CSEW violence according to the offender-victim relationship are as follows:

- **Domestic violence**[21] comprises wounding and assaults which involve partners, ex-partners, other relatives or household members.
- **Stranger violence** includes wounding and assaults in which the victim did not have any information about the offender(s), or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before.
- **Acquaintance violence** comprises wounding and assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include domestic violence.

In the CSEW, the previously used **common assault** (or attempted assault) category, which had been inconsistent with the police recorded offence category, was replaced with assault with minor injury and assault without injury categories in 2006/07. This change was made to align CSEW categories more closely with those used by the police.

Police recorded violence against the person

Violence against the person offences contain the full spectrum of assaults, from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the severity of violence varies considerably between incidents.

[21] Domestic violence figures that relate to incidents reported in face-to-face CSEW interviews should be treated with caution. Prevalence rates for domestic violence derived from the self-completion module are around five times higher for adults than those obtained from the face-to-face interviews (Walby and Allen, 2004). Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by the main CSEW, findings are published solely from the self-completion module.

Long-term trends in police recorded violent crime can be difficult to interpret, as they are influenced by a number of factors. It is important to consider the following issues when interpreting trends.

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents, although the proportion of CSEW violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has been reasonably stable since 2002/03. The latest published data on the percentages of CSEW incidents reported to the police are for 2013/14, available from Table D8 of the 'Quarterly First Release to March 2014' release.

Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime. Where the police are proactive in addressing low-level violence and anti-social behaviour, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and being recorded. For example, research by the Cardiff Violence Research Group showed an association between the introduction of CCTV surveillance and increased police detection of violence (Sivarajasingam et al., 2003).

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices. The 1998 changes to the Home Office Counting Rules had a very significant impact on the recording of violent and sexual crime; the number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police increased by 118 per cent as a result of the 1998 changes (Povey and Prime, 1999). Much of this increase resulted from a widening of the offence coverage to include assaults with little or no physical injury and offences of harassment (again with no injury).

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent and sexual crimes particularly for less serious offences, as well as for some other offences. There was an estimated NCRS effect of 23 per cent on violence against the person offences in the first 12 months of implementation, although it was recognised that this effect was unlikely to be complete within the first 12 months (Simmons et al., 2003).

Audits undertaken by the Audit Commission on behalf of the Home Office indicated substantial improvements in crime recording across forces in the two to three years following NCRS introduction, which would particularly impact on violence against the person and result in increases in recorded crimes for this category.

Incidents of violence against the person recorded by the police include the following categories as described below:

- **Homicide**[22] (murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter – where an organisation is deemed responsible for a person's death).
- **Death by driving** offences (includes death by dangerous driving, careless or inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and while being an unlicensed or uninsured driver).
- **Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm** offences include injury resulting in permanent disability, more than minor permanent disfigurement, broken bones, fractured skull, compound fractures, substantial loss of blood, internal injury, lengthy treatment

[22] Corporate manslaughter was previously included under 'Violence against the person – with injury'. Following a public consultation in 2012 which addressed the presentation of corporate manslaughter in crime statistics, this offence is now included within the 'Homicide' subcategory.

or serious psychiatric injury (based on expert evidence), and shock (when accompanied by expert psychological evidence).

- **Threats to kill** where an individual fears that the offender's threat is real and may be carried out.
- **Harassment offences**[23] are those incidents where no other substantive notifiable offence exists, but when looked at as a course of conduct are likely to cause fear, alarm or distress.
- **Assault without injury** offences are those where at the most a feeling of touch or passing moment of pain is experienced by the victim.

The published figures do not separately split individual homicide offences across the separate components (such as murder or manslaughter) as, when a homicide is initially recorded by the police, the full circumstances of the incident may not be known. Furthermore, the precise nature of an offence may only become clear once a suspect has been apprehended and appears at court.

The Home Office receives two sources of information on homicide from the police forces of England and Wales (including the British Transport Police where the incident occurred within England and Wales). These are:

- the monthly aggregated recorded crime return (see Section 3.1).
- a more detailed statistical return for each recorded homicide containing additional information, including victim and suspect details and the circumstances of the offence. This is used to populate a Home Office database called the Homicide Index.

Box 3.1 The Homicide Index

The Home Office Homicide Index contains record level detail about homicides recorded in England and Wales since 1977. Information prior to 1977 is held as paper records. In contrast to the aggregated recorded crime return, the Homicide Index is continually being updated with revised information from the police as investigations continue and as cases are heard by the courts, and is therefore viewed as a better source of data. However, due to the time permitted for police forces to submit the individual returns (within 30 days of recording an incident as homicide) and the complexities in checking the data, it is not possible to use the Homicide Index figures in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales. Instead, figures from the monthly aggregated recorded crime return are presented as a provisional homicide estimate, with full analysis published in the Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences series at the beginning of the following year. Care should therefore be taken when using the provisional figures for homicide as these are subject to change (though in recent years the changes between provisional and final figures have generally been small).

Homicide Index data are based on the year when the offence was first recorded, not when the offence took place or when the case was heard in court. While in the vast majority of cases the offence will be recorded in the same year as it took place, this is not always the case.

[23] Historical data for harassment was affected by the removal of offence code 9A (Public fear, alarm or distress) from the violence against the person category introduced in the year to March 2013 quarterly bulletin. For further information on how figures were affected see Section 3.3 on Public order offences.

When a homicide is recorded by the police, they are required to complete a detailed form within 30 days. The first part of this form gives information on the victim (for example, age, gender, ethnicity, relationship of victim//suspect) and the homicide (for example, method of killing, location of killing, circumstances). The form is returned to the Home Office, via the Police Data Collection Section (PDCS), and loaded onto the Homicide Index. When a suspect is charged with a homicide, the police update the form with suspect information (for example, age, gender, ethnicity), and when the case has been through the courts, it is updated with case outcome information (for example, indictment, court outcome, date of conviction, sentence length).The information that is returned is quality assured in several ways:

1. As the electronic form is completed by the force, there are some fields that cannot be left blank, and this is flagged up on exiting the form.
2. Before the form is accepted onto the Homicide Index database, PDCS check for missing data and inconsistent fields.
3. PDCS carries out monthly/quarterly checks on the number of Homicides from aggregate returns against the number of returns to the Homicide Index for each Police Force Area

At the end of each financial year, forces are required to send a list of homicides with the following information:

- Forename and surname of victim.
- Police force reference.
- Date of recording.
- If firearm was used.
- If suspect has been charged.

These fields are then compared to information from the Homicide Index.

The total number of homicides in each PFA are compared with totals from the aggregate police recorded crime, including the number of ‘no crimes’. For more information on no crimes, see section 3.5.

Comparisons are also made with the special data collection on offences involving firearms.

4. The Home Office Statistics Unit run about 60 data validity checks on the Homicide Index data, mainly on the fields that are included in published statistics releases. Some of these checks replicate those carried out by PDCS as the form arrives. These include checks for:

- Fields with missing / blank data e.g. age, sex, number of victims/suspects, victim/suspect number.
- Fields with open text e.g. ‘other method of killing’ or ‘other circumstances’ to see if any of the responses could be recoded back into any of the pre determined categories.
- Internal consistency between fields.

For example; If the victim is 10 and the suspect is 40, the relationship of victim to suspect cannot be parent – in this case we would ask the force to amend to son/daughter.

If the method of killing is 'sharp instrument' the field 'was a sharp instrument used' cannot be 'No'

The date of charge/conviction should be later than the date of the homicide.

5. Home Office Statistics also corroborate information from the police with newspaper and court reports.

Any discrepancies identified are referred back to the force to investigate and updated forms returned where applicable. The data is delivered to ONS in the form of aggregate tables for the annual release, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences.

The other violent offences recorded by the police include attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, endangering life, cruelty or neglect to children, abandoning a child under two years, child abduction and kidnapping.

Police recorded crime statistics do not specifically identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal definition. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with the intent of the offence and any injuries sustained, for example, assault with injury.

Police recorded crime figures for violence against the person quoted in the text and charts also include assault on a constable and racially or religiously aggravated assault, which are both separate categories within recorded crime. Such incidents are not treated separately in the CSEW and would fall within the CSEW assault with minor injury or without injury categories.

Offences involving weapons

The Home Office collects additional data from the police on offences involving the use of firearms and knives or sharp instruments. These additional collections reflect the serious nature of these offences.

Offences involving the use of firearms

The firearm offences collection covers any notifiable offence recorded by the police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat (the full list of recorded crime offence codes in included in Appendix 1). Firearm possession offences where the firearm has not been used in any of the ways above are not included in this collection. This collection covers those firearms covered by the Firearms Act 1968:

- Firearms that use a controlled explosion to fire a projectile. This category includes handguns, shotguns and rifles. These types of weapon are often used in the more serious offences, and tend to account for most of the fatalities and serious injuries from such offences.
- Imitation firearms. This category includes replica weapons, as well as very low-powered weapons which can fire small plastic pellets, such as BB guns and soft air weapons. While injuries can occur from offences involving these weapons, they are less common and tend to be less serious.

- Air weapons. The majority of offences which involve air weapons relate to criminal damage. While air weapons can cause injury (and sometimes fatalities), by their nature they are less likely to do so than firearms that use a controlled explosion.

It is not always possible for the police to categorise the type of firearm that has been used in an offence. For example, some imitation weapons are so realistic that they are indistinguishable from a real firearm. The police will record which type of weapon has been used given the evidence available, and may depend on descriptions of victims or witnesses, if the police do not have sufficient information about the type of firearm used in the offence or if the firearm was concealed.

Figures on the use of firearms in recorded offences are published provisionally in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales, with finalised figures being published in the supplementary bulletin on violent crime released at the beginning of each year.

As with overall police recorded crime, offences involving the use of a firearm data were affected by the changes in recording practices in 1998 and 2002. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare figures across these changes in the series.

The latest published data are for the year ending March 2014; these are available from Table A4.

Offences involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument

The Home Office has collected additional data from police forces on selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments since April 2007. Knives or sharp instruments are taken to be involved in an incident if they are used to stab or cut, or as a threat. In 2007/08 this group of offences consisted of attempted murder, grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, GBH without intent and robbery. In 2008/09, the offence coverage was expanded to include offences of threats to kill, actual bodily harm (ABH), sexual assault and rape. Due to the changes in coverage and issues relating to a clarification in the Counting Rules for GBH with intent[24] comparable data for these offences are only available since 2008/09. From 2012/13, the selected offences consisted of attempted murder, threats to kill, assault with injury, assault with intent to cause serious harm, robbery, rape and sexual assault.

Due to recording practices, Surrey police force includes unbroken bottle and glass offences in their data returns which are outside the scope of this collection. However as the number of offences recorded by Surrey is around 0.2 per cent of the total number of offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded, it is unlikely to have any effect on the overall estimates. As reported in Chaplin et al., 2011, West Midlands also included these offences in their data returns until April 2010. Due to this change it is not possible to compare data for West Midlands or national totals across this period and this was reflected in the presentation of these figures in previous crime bulletins. National data are now comparable for 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14. The change had no effect on the main counts of violence against the person with injury.

Changes to offence codes in April 2012 mean the categories of ABH and GBH and assault with and without injury are not directly comparable between 2011/12 and 2012/13. However, these changes are not expected to affect the totals – see Table A4 for more details.

[24] See Walker et al., 2009 for more information.

Sexual offences

From the year ending March 2013 bulletin onwards, police recorded crime tables present sexual offences in 2 groups: **rape** and **other sexual offences**[25]. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all rape, sexual assault and sexual activity with children and so comparisons before and after the introduction of this Act should be made with caution.

The group of **other sexual offences** recorded by the police covers sexual assault, and unlawful sexual activity, which can involve consenting adults or children, and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming, which is included in this group. Offences of **indecent exposure**[26] [27] [28] have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive, which are included in the offence type of wounding).

CSEW respondents may not wish to disclose sensitive information face-to-face and so interviews since 2004/05 (and prior to this in 1996 and 2001) have included self-completion modules on intimate violence (see below). These figures have previously been published separately by ONS (see Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13).

Intimate personal violence

Intimate personal violence is the CSEW collective term used to describe domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and the categories are defined as follows:

- **Any domestic abuse**: non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.
- **Partner abuse (non-sexual)**: non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a current or former partner.
- **Family abuse (non-sexual)**: non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother or other relative).
- **Emotional or financial abuse**: includes being prevented from having a fair share of household money, stopped from seeing friends or relatives or repeatedly belittled.
- **Threats:** being frightened or threatened in any way; for example; threats to hurt you, to kill you, to use a weapon on you, or to hurt someone close to you

[25] Prior to this the groups were **most serious sexual crime** and **other sexual offences.**
[26] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
[27] 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences' consisted solely of the former offence of 'Indecent exposure' for years prior to 2004/05. This became the offence of 'Exposure' and was included within 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences' from May 2004.
[28] Prior to 2009/10, a small number of offences continued to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While these may have been legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error.

- **Force:** includes being pushed, slapped, hit, punched or kicked, choked or used a weapon against you.
- **Sexual assault**: indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person including a partner or family member.
- **Rape** is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis without consent.
- **Assault by penetration** is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.
- **Stalking** is defined as one or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of receiving obscene or threatening unwanted letters, e-mails, text messages or phone calls, having had obscene or threatening information about them placed on the internet, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, following or watching, or interfering with or damaging personal property by any person, including a partner or family member.[29]

Robbery

A robbery is an incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. As with violence against the person, police recorded robberies cover a wide range of seriousness from armed bank robberies to muggings for mobile phones or small amounts of money. Recorded crime offences also distinguish between robbery of personal property (**personal robbery**) and business property (**business robbery**). Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) is also included as robbery.

The CSEW covers robberies against individuals resident in households. Following changes to the classification of CSEW offences implemented in July 2014, robbery is no longer included in the violent crime count and instead are presented in a standalone category.[30]

5.2 Theft offences

Police recorded theft offences include all offences recorded by the police involving theft; encompassing burglary, offences against vehicle owners, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting and all other theft offences.

CSEW theft offences include all personal and household crime where items are stolen: theft from the person; other theft of personal property; domestic burglary; vehicle-related theft and bicycle theft.

[29] Stalking is based on one or more incidents as opposed to two or more as previously described. The revised questions in the split sample experiment for 2012/13 base stalking on more than one incident.
[30] As part of the public consultation which ran in 2012 on the presentation of crime statistics, a proposal was made with regard to the CSEW classification to move robbery out of violence into a separate standalone category to match its treatment in recorded crime.

Burglary

The CSEW covers **domestic burglary** only, which is an unauthorised entry into the victim's dwelling or non-connected building to a dwelling, but does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (for example, impersonating an official).

CSEW domestic burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence (for example, party guests or workmen); this is called **theft from a dwelling** and is included in the sub-category 'Other household theft'.

Within the CSEW it is possible to differentiate between burglary with entry and attempted burglary and also between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss. Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary adds up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss adds up to burglary with entry. These are defined below.

Burglary with entry is a term used in the CSEW and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss is a term used in the CSEW and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen.

Burglary with no loss is a term used in the CSEW and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered but nothing was stolen.

An **attempted burglary** is recorded by the police and in the CSEW if there is clear evidence that the offender made an actual, physical attempt to gain entry to a building (for example, damage to locks, or broken doors) but was unsuccessful.

The police record an offence of **burglary** if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with the intent to commit an offence of theft, GBH or unlawful damage. **Aggravated burglary** occurs when the burglar is carrying a firearm, imitation firearm, offensive weapon or explosive.

Police recorded crime figures are published separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties.

- **Domestic burglaries** include burglaries in all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (for example, by a connecting door).
- **Non-domestic burglaries** include burglaries to businesses (including hotels and similar accommodation) and also some burglaries of sheds and outhouses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.

Vehicle-related theft

The CSEW includes offences against private households only but relates to vehicles owned by any member of the household (company cars are included). CSEW offences cover cars, vans, motorbikes, motor-scooters or mopeds used for non-commercial purposes published in three categories:

- **Theft from vehicles** refers to both theft of parts and accessories of motor vehicles and to theft of contents.
- **Theft of vehicles** where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered.
- **Attempted thefts of and from vehicles** – no distinction is made between attempted thefts of and attempted thefts from vehicles as it is often difficult to ascertain the offender's intention.

If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a vehicle.

The police recorded crime category of vehicle offences covers private and commercial vehicles (although does not distinguish between the two) and comprises:

- **Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle** where the vehicle is taken without the consent of the owner or other lawful authority; this includes incidents where there is intent to permanently deprive the owner or where intent is not evident, typically including 'joyriding' where the car is later recovered.
- **Aggravated vehicle taking** where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged, or caused an accident.
- **Theft from a vehicle** targeting property in or on the vehicle (this includes attempts).
- **Interfering with a motor vehicle** which includes crimes where, while damage has been caused to the vehicle as part of an attempt to steal either the vehicle or its contents or take the vehicle without consent, the specific intent of the offender is not obvious. For example, a car door may be damaged, which shows an attempt was made to open it, but it cannot be determined if the intent was to steal the car or some contents within it.

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences as presented in the crime statistics bulletins are equivalent to offences formerly referred to as 'vehicle interference and tampering'. The CSEW cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the CSEW it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even as nuisance.

The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) is included within the robbery offence group.

Bicycle theft

Police recorded crime includes offences where a pedal cycle is stolen or taken without authorisation. The CSEW covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household.

This category does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (for example, burglary) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the CSEW:

- Burglary – if anything else was stolen or an attempt was made to steal something else, in addition to the bicycle, from the household's dwelling.
- Theft from a dwelling – when the bicycle is stolen from inside a house by someone who was not trespassing.

- Theft from a vehicle – if the bicycle is one of a number of things stolen.

Other theft

Theft from the person covers theft (including attempts) of a handbag, wallet, cash, etc. directly from the victim, but without the use of physical force against the victim, or the threat of it. The CSEW category breaks into three components:

- **Snatch theft** where there may be an element of force involved but this is only just enough to snatch the property away.
- **Stealth theft** where no force is used and the victim is unaware of the incident (pick-pocketing). Stealth theft makes up the majority of **theft from the person** incidents.
- **Attempted snatch or stealth theft** where an attempt, which may or may not involve an element of (minor) force, is made to steal, but is unsuccessful.

For police recorded crime, **theft from the person** offences are those where there is no use of threat or force in the process of the theft. Stealth theft is included as part of this recorded crime category and cannot be separately identified from snatch theft.

CSEW other theft of personal property covers thefts away from the home where no force is used, there was no direct contact between the offender and victim and the victim was not holding or carrying the items when they were stolen (for example, thefts of unattended property).

CSEW other household theft covers the following theft types:

- **Theft from a dwelling**, which includes thefts that occurred in the victim's dwelling by someone who was entitled to be there.
- **Theft from outside a dwelling**, which covers incidents where items are stolen from outside the victim's home and also includes thefts in non-connected buildings (for example, garden sheds) by someone who was entitled to be there.

Police recorded crime captures a separate category of **shoplifting**.

The police recorded crime offence group of **other theft** offences covers thefts that are not covered by other acquisitive crime offence groups (for example, thefts from vehicles are included in offences against vehicles); one such example is unauthorised taking (including metal theft). In recognition of the volume of metal theft crime and its impact on the economy and particular industries that are targeted, a new metal theft data collection has been established (see the Home Office publication: Metal theft, England and Wales, financial year ending March 2013).

5.3 Criminal damage and arson

In the CSEW, criminal damage is defined as the intentional and malicious damage to the home, other property or vehicles. Criminal damage in the CSEW ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (for example, letting down car tyres) or where the damage is accidental are not included. Where damage occurs in combination with burglary or robbery, the burglary or robbery codes take precedence over the damage codes in offence coding.

The CSEW produces estimates for criminal damage to vehicles, and arson and other criminal damage (to the home and other property):

- **Criminal damage to a vehicle** includes any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle, such as scratching a coin down the side of a car or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and, therefore, included in 'Arson and other criminal damage'. The CSEW only covers damage against private households; that is, vehicles owned by any member of the household (this includes company cars). Police recorded crime includes all vehicle criminal damage under the offence classification of 'Criminal damage to a vehicle'.
- **Arson and other criminal damage** includes intentional or malicious damage to the home (doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs, for example) or other property and arson, where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire.

Police recorded **criminal damage** results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Damage which is repairable without cost, or which is accidental, is not included in police recorded crime statistics. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage.

Arson is the act of deliberately setting fire to property, including buildings and vehicles. In the CSEW this is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household caused by fire, regardless of the type of property involved. The only exception is where the item that is set on fire was stolen first (this is coded as theft).

For vehicle crime, if a vehicle is stolen and later found deliberately burnt out by the same offender, one crime of theft of a vehicle is recorded by the police and in the CSEW. If there is evidence that someone unconnected with the theft committed the arson, then an offence of arson is recorded by the police in addition to the theft. For the CSEW, only an offence of theft of a vehicle would be recorded as in practice it would often not be possible to establish that the arson was committed by someone unconnected with the theft.

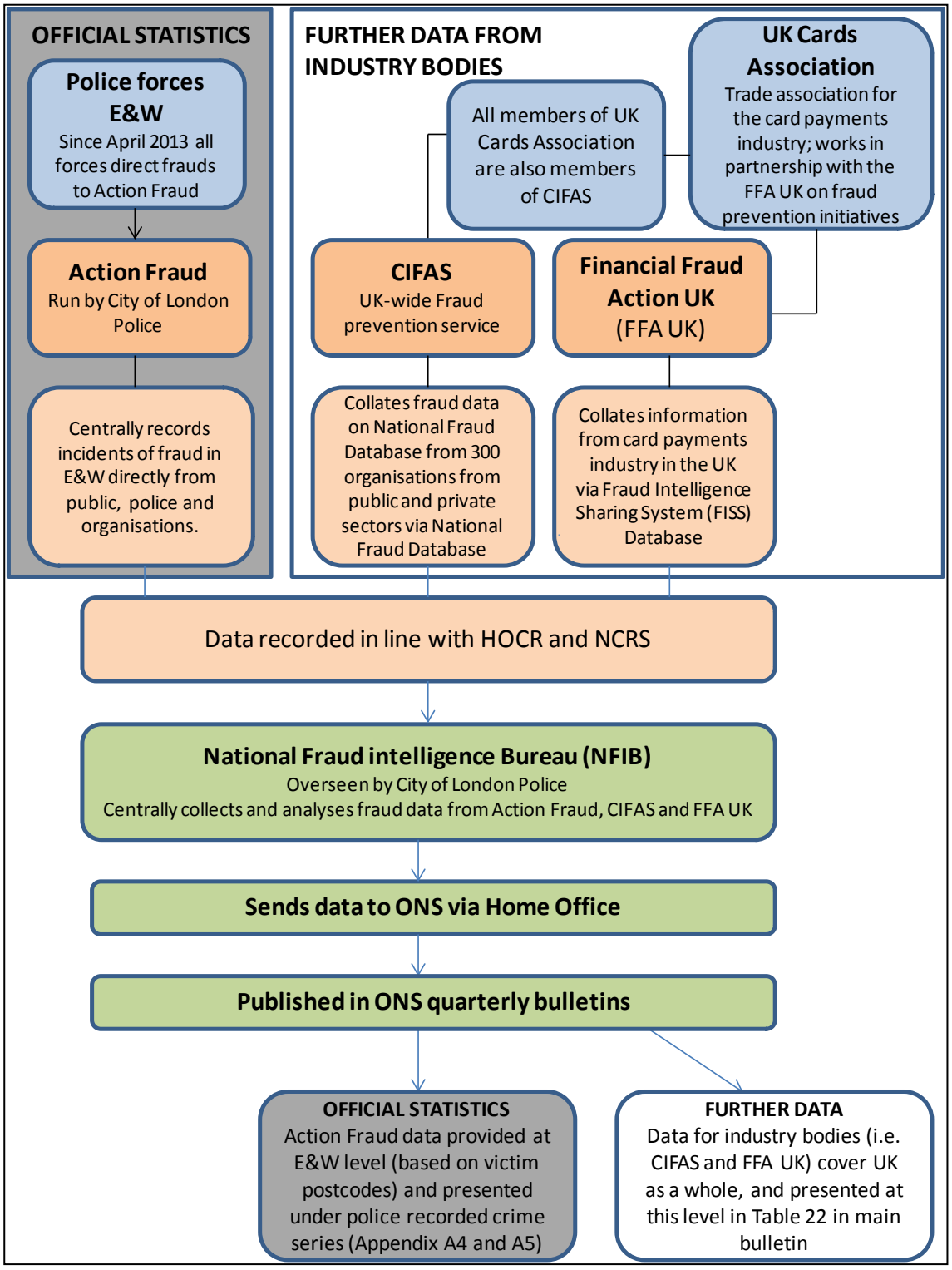
5.4 Fraud

The measurement of fraud is challenging as it is a deceptive crime which is difficult to detect accurately and is often targeted at organisations rather than individuals. It is known to be under-reported to the police and difficult to measure using a household survey. Fraud data from a range of administrative sources are presented in the quarterly statistical bulletins on crime in England and Wales to provide a more complete picture. These are outlined in Figure 5a and include:

- Police recorded crime via Action Fraud, and;
- Data from industry bodies collated by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

In addition, the CSEW includes a separate module of questions on experience of plastic card fraud from which data can be drawn, and a project is currently underway to look at incorporating fraud into the CSEW headline estimates of crime.

Figure 5a: Sources of administrative date on fraud


OFFICIAL STATISTICS
Police forces E&W
Since April 2013 all forces direct frauds to Action Fraud
Action Fraud
Run by City of London Police
Centrally records incidents of fraud in E&W directly from public, police and organisations.
FURTHER DATA FROM INDUSTRY BODIES
All members of UK Cards Association are also members of CIFAS
UK Cards Association
Trade association for the card payments industry; works in partnership with the FFA UK on fraud prevention initiatives
CIFAS
UK-wide Fraud prevention service
Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK)
Collates fraud data on National Fraud Database from 300 organisations from public and private sectors via National Fraud Database
Collates information from card payments industry in the UK via Fraud Intelligence Sharing System (FISS) Database
Data recorded in line with HOCR and NCRS
National Fraud intelligence Bureau (NFIB)
Overseen by City of London Police
Centrally collects and analyses fraud data from Action Fraud, CIFAS and FFA UK
Sends data to ONS via Home Office
Published in ONS quarterly bulletins
OFFICIAL STATISTICS
Action Fraud data provided at E&W level (based on victim postcodes) and presented under police recorded crime series (Appendix A4 and A5)
FURTHER DATA
Data for industry bodies (i.e. CIFAS and FFA UK) cover UK as a whole, and presented at this level in Table 22 in main bulletin

Police recorded crime

Under the Fraud Act 2006 (introduced in January 2007[31]), fraud is defined as dishonestly making a false representation to obtain property or money for themselves or another. Previously it was defined as dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or pecuniary advantage. Table 5b shows the police recorded fraud and forgery offences before and after the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006.

Table 5b: Police recorded fraud and forgery offences

Police recorded fraud and forgery offences before the Fraud Act 2006	Current police recorded fraud and forgery offences under the Fraud Act 2006
Fraud by company director	Fraud by company director
False accounting	False accounting
Bankruptcy and insolvency offences	Bankruptcy and insolvency offences
Forgery or use of false drug prescription	Forgery or use of drug prescription
Other frauds	Other frauds
Cheque and credit card fraud	Failing to disclose information
	Abuse of position
	Obtaining services dishonestly
	Making, supplying or possessing articles for use in fraud
	Fraud, forgery associated with vehicle driver records

The introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 changed the recording of cheque and plastic card fraud from a 'per transaction' to a 'per account' basis. This means that if an account is defrauded, one offence is recorded rather than one offence per fraudulent transaction as previously. This change was introduced to reduce bureaucracy and to reflect that the financial loss from this type of fraudulent crime is generally borne by the account holding financial institution rather than the account holder or those involved in processing the transactions.

The changes resulting from the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006 mean that police recorded fraud and forgery figures from 2007/08 onwards are not comparable with previous years.

Previously, published crime statistics for police recorded forgery offences were presented alongside fraud offences. Following the re-classification in 2013 of some categories in the police recorded crime series, these forgery offences have now been moved to 'Other crimes against society'. The headline total police recorded crime figure for England and Wales includes fraud offences; those recorded by the police from 2002/03 to 2012/13 and by Action Fraud from 2011/12 (in 2011/12 there was an overlap where Action fraud had taken over responsibility for recording

[31] New offences that were introduced from 15 January 2007 were temporarily recorded as 'Other fraud' until the new offence codes came into being on 1 April 2007.

fraud offences from 5 police forces with a further overlap in 2012/13 as all remaining forces then migrated on a rolling basis during the year). The central recording of fraud offences means that police recorded crime shown at police force area level does not include fraud offences.

Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau

The Fraud Act 2006 and the Attorney General's Fraud Review resulted in the creation of a National Fraud Authority (NFA)[32] which acted as an umbrella government organisation to co-ordinate and oversee the fight against fraud. One of their key objectives was to better support the reporting of fraudulent crimes and their subsequent investigation. The review of fraud, commissioned by the Government, recognised that attempts to tackle fraud were being undermined by the lack of a joined-up approach to reporting, recording and analysing fraud.

The review also resulted in the City of London Police becoming the National Lead Force for fraud and being given the responsibility for setting up a centre of excellence for fraud investigation across the UK.

In 2009/10 the NFA opened Action Fraud, a national fraud reporting centre that records incidents of fraud directly from the public and organisations by phone or internet in addition to incidents reported directly to individual police forces. Additionally, in 2009/10 the NFA and the police jointly established the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB), which is a government-funded initiative run by the City of London Police.

The NFIB currently collates fraud data from Action Fraud as well as from a wide variety of organisations including CIFAS (a UK-wide fraud prevention service) and Financial Fraud Action UK (a body which collates information from the card payments industry in the UK). Action Fraud works with the NFIB to provide support and fraud prevention advice to victims, and to ensure a joined-up approach to policing and detecting fraud. The NFIB analyses the fraud offences they record to identify positive investigatory opportunities. Where there is a viable investigational lead, they will refer cases to police forces and other investigative agencies[33] to follow up, and will liaise directly with them until an outcome is reached. Cases which do not meet the criteria for further investigation may be reopened at a later date should subsequent information provide sufficient leads.

As of 1 April 2013, Action Fraud took over full responsibility from individual police forces for recording all incidents of fraud. All police forces in England and Wales now refer reports of fraud, including financially motivated e-crime, to the NFIB through Action Fraud. Fraud offences include:

- Advance fee payments fraud – victims are targeted to make advance payments for goods, services or financial gains that do not materialise.
- All charity fraud – fraudsters organise the fraudulent collection of money using names of genuine or fictional charities.
- Banking and credit industry fraud – plastic card, online bank account and mortgage fraud.

[32] The National Fraud Authority closed down in March 2014 and Action Fraud became the responsibility of the City of London Police on 1st April 2014.
[33] For example: Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit (DCPCU) of the City of London Police, Department for Work and Pensions and the Trading Standards Institute.

- Bankruptcy and insolvency – companies fraudulently trading immediately before declared insolvent, or while suspended or disqualified.
- Business trading fraud – businesses set up with the intention of defrauding customers.
- Computer misuse crime – hacking, viruses.
- Corporate fraud – general frauds that target any business and sector specific frauds, including corporate employee fraud and corporate procurement fraud.
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) fraud – falsely claiming benefits given out by the DWP.
- False accounting fraud – company assets are overstated or liabilities understated to make a business seem financially stronger than it really is.
- Financial Investments – someone is encouraged to invest in a company for falsely high rates of return.
- Fraud by abuse of position – someone abuses their position of authority or trust against another person, for personal or financial gain.
- Fraud by failing to disclose information – failure to disclose information by an individual to another person when they have a legal duty to do so.
- Fraudulent applications for grants from government funded organisations – where government funded organisations have provided grants based on false representations or where they have received grant applications that contain false representations and so no grant was paid.
- HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) fraud – when fraud is committed against HMRC.
- Insurance fraud – false claim made to an insurance company
- Non-investment fraud - payment for goods or services made using fraudulent means
- Other Fraud -.frauds by false representation or obtaining services dishonestly that are not covered elsewhere in other crime types.
- Other regulatory fraud – include fraud against the Land Registry, Insider Dealing at the stock exchange, or the Gambling Commission.
- Passport application fraud – obtaining or trying to obtain a UK passport by false representation to the HM Passport Office.
- Pension Fraud – pension fraud by pensioners, pension fraud committed on pensions, and fraudulent pension liberation schemes.
- Telecommunications fraud – mobile phone fraud.

For more information about subcategories of fraud offences falling under these main fraud types, please see the Home Office Counting Rules for fraud.

Action Fraud had a phased introduction between April 2011 and March 2013 to allow for piloting and development of the service. This involved local police forces transferring responsibility over to Action Fraud at different points during this period. The date at which each police force transferred recording to Action Fraud is listed in Table 5c:

Table 5c: Police force transition dates for the recording of fraud to Action Fraud

Region/ Force	Go live Date	Region/ Force	Go live Date	Region/ Force	Go live Date
Eastern		**South East**		**South West**	
Bedfordshire	01-Dec-12	Kent	01-Dec-11	Avon and Somerset	03-Dec-12
Cambridgeshire	21-Jan-13	Hampshire	03-Dec-12	Devon and Cornwall	03-Dec-12
Essex	17-Dec-12	Surrey	03-Dec-12	Dorset	03-Dec-12
Norfolk	14-Jan-13	Sussex	03-Dec-12	Gloucestershire	03-Dec-12
Suffolk	14-Jan-13	Thames Valley	03-Dec-12	Wiltshire	03-Dec-12
Hertfordshire	01-Nov-12				
East Midlands		**West Midlands**		**North East**	
Derbyshire	07-Jan-13	Staffordshire	02-Jan-13	Northumbria	03-Dec-12
Northants	29-Oct-12	Warwickshire	01-Jan-13	Durham	03-Dec-12
Leicestershire	01-Jul-11	West Mercia	01-Jan-13	Cleveland	04-Mar-13
Lincolnshire	01-Jan-13	West Midlands	02-Jan-13		
Nottinghamshire	07-Jan-13				
Yorkshire and Humberside		**North West**		**Wales**	
Humberside	25-Mar-13	Cheshire	18-Feb-13	Dyfed Powys	03-Dec-12
North Yorkshire	25-Mar-13	Cumbria	01-Nov-11	Gwent	03-Dec-12
South Yorkshire	25-Mar-13	GMP	01-Jan-12	North Wales	03-Dec-12
West Yorkshire	25-Mar-13	Merseyside	18-Feb-13	South Wales	03-Dec-12
		Lancashire	18-Feb-13		
Others					
Met Police	04-Feb-13				
British Transport Police	03-Mar-13				
MOD Police	21-Feb-13				
City of London	01-Apr-11				

This phased transition meant that, throughout 2011/12 and 2012/13, two reporting arrangements for fraud were operating in parallel with some police forces referring cases to Action Fraud, and other forces recording them independently. For example, by December 2012, 24 out of the 43 police force areas completing that transfer to Action Fraud, while the remain 19 forces still had responsibility for recording fraud locally. All police forces in England and Wales transferred responsibility for recording all fraud offences to Action Fraud by 31 March 2013.

Now, members of the public who have been a direct victim of fraud should report the incident straight to Action Fraud (either via their customer call centres of their online reporting tool), but may still report to the police if they are not aware of the existence or role of Action Fraud. Where this happens they will be advised by the police to report the incident to Action Fraud. Where a victim declines, the police will inform the victim that they will refer the offence to Action Fraud on their behalf. There is a risk of duplication here if the victim then changes their mind at a later date and

reports the same incident to Action Fraud, however the risk of double counting as a result of this is thought to be very small.

Police forces continue to record forgery offences[34], offences which meet the 'call for service' criteria[35] and crimes passed to them by the NFIB for investigation, but no longer record for statistical purposes any offences amounting to fraud as of 31st March 2013. As a result the amount of frauds recorded by the police over the course of the year 2013/14 steadily diminished and for all future bulletins will amount to zero[36].

In order to reflect these changes in operation arrangements for reporting and recording fraud, trend data presented in the current bulletin on fraud recorded by the police cover both offences recorded by individual police forces up to 2012/13, and those recorded by the NFIB through Action Fraud. This means that any comparison of the current fraud figures with previous years must be treated with caution. Action Fraud collates data for the UK as a whole, and the figures for England and Wales presented in the latest bulletin have been based on victims' postcodes as no information is available on where offences take place (which is often hard to define).

Action Fraud includes types of fraud where it is not possible to attribute it to a specific police force (for example, internet based fraud), therefore Action Fraud data are not included in sub-national tables.

The NFIB also collate further data on fraud from two industry bodies; CIFAS (a cross-sector, not-for-profit membership association aiming to prevent fraud) and from Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK - a body which co-ordinates activity on fraud prevention within UK financial services industry). These data are presented in quarterly crime statistics bulletins in order to provide further contextual information. Further details on these industry bodies, and the data they collate, is given below.

CIFAS

CIFAS is a Specified Anti-Fraud Organisation (SAFO) under the Serious Crimes Act 2007. Operating as a cross-sector, not-for-profit membership association, CIFAS facilitates fraud data sharing between around 300 organisations from across the public and private sectors in the UK. CIFAS membership covers all of the major banks and around 90% of plastic card providers (see CIFAS website for a full list of members). CIFAS operates the National Fraud Database and the Internal Fraud database[37], and in addition to offering members a fraud prevention service, collects data for the UK on a range of different frauds, including:

- Banking and credit industry,

[34] These fall under 'Other crimes against society' and include 'Making, supplying or possessing articles for use in fraud ', 'Forgery or use of drug prescription', 'Other forgery', 'Possession of false documents' and Fraud, forgery associated with vehicle driver records.

[35] Includes offences where offenders are arrested by police, where there has been a call for service and the offender is committing or has recently committed the offence, or where there is a known suspect.

[36] Following the transition to Action Fraud recording all fraud offences by the end of 2012/13, a small number of fraud offences were mistakenly recorded by police forces in early 2013/14. However, these were corrected in the subsequent quarters leading to the negative number of fraud offences seen in the year to June 2014.

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[37] The Internal Fraud Database is a data sharing scheme for organisations that are victims of fraud by their own employees, and data from this database does not feed directly into Action Fraud or the NFIB.

- Insurance related,
- Telecom industry,
- Business trading,
- Fraudulent applications for grants from charities

The category 'Banking and credit industry fraud' can be broken further, into:

- Cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (not PSP[38])
- Application fraud (excluding mortgages)
- Mortgage related fraud

Application fraud covers payment related frauds, including those offences that occurred outside of the banking sector. Fraudsters open an account utilising fake or stolen documents in someone else's name, for example, fraudulent applications made in relation to hire purchase agreements or loans, as well as to insurance, telecommunications or retail companies, or public sector organisations. Mortgage related frauds usually involve individuals or organised criminal gangs, and can include over-valuing properties, overstating a salary or income, and changing title deeds without an owner's knowledge to allow the sale of a property.

Types of plastic card fraud recorded by the National Fraud Database include fraudulent applications for plastic cards (including ID fraud), fraudulent misuse of plastic card accounts, and takeover of plastic card accounts (for example changing the address and getting new cards issued). CIFAS do not currently collect data on 'card not present' fraud, where the cardholder and card are not present at the point of sale, for example, use of the card online, over the phone or by mail order. In addition they do not include data on fraud relating to lost or stolen cards and ATM fraud. This means that a high proportion of plastic card fraud is not included in the NFIB figures.

CIFAS data are currently recorded in line with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) and the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR), and are included in published NFIB fraud figures for the UK as a whole (unlike published Action Fraud data which refer to England and Wales).

Financial Fraud Action UK

Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK) works in partnership with the UK Cards Association and is the name under which the financial services industry co-ordinates its activity on fraud prevention. FFA UK represents members from the UK Cards Association (see UK Cards Association website) on credit and debit card fraud and from retail banks on non-card fraud matters which include payment fraud using online banking and telephone channels, and cheque and lending fraud. Data is collated via their central Fraud Intelligence Sharing System (FISS) database.

The data supplied by FFA UK also conforms to HOCR, however the crimes fed through to the NFIB by FFA UK are those reported for intelligence purposes and the fraud records which hold intelligence value for enforcement purposes, and are not intended to be a complete record of all

[38] A PSP is a payment service provider (for example, Paypal, World Pay) that is not a bank, dealing in electronic money transfers. Fraud offences perpetrated using PSPs fall under 'Online shopping and auctions' (not collected by industry bodies).

frauds reported by its members. It is also possible that perceptions of what cases are worthy of referral may change over time, for example, scale of losses suffered or changing fraud risks.

FFA UK data submitted to the NFIB via FISS cover the UK as a whole (unlike published Action Fraud data which refer to England and Wales) and contain intelligence for;

- Mail Not Received (MNR) fraud, Card ID fraud - includes Account Takeover and Application Fraud
- Payment fraud - includes fraud relating to telephone banking and online banking
- Cheque fraud - includes forged, altered and counterfeit
- Mule accounts - accounts used for laundering the proceeds of fraud

Like CIFAS, FFA UK do not currently feed through to the NFIB data on 'card not present' fraud, lost or stolen cards and ATM fraud[39]. This accounts for a high proportion of plastic card fraud which is not included in the NFIB figures, although information relating to plastic card fraud in terms of levels of financial fraud losses on UK cards is published annually by the FFA UK on behalf of the UK Cards Association[40].

Both sets of industry data from CIFAS and FFA UK relate only to those organisations that are part of the respective membership networks (CIFAS, UK Cards Association), and as such do not provide a complete picture of fraud in the industry sectors they represent. Coverage can also change as new members join or previous members withdraw, and even the addition or withdrawal of one large member might have a significant impact on the figures. In addition, while CIFAS and FFA UK both provide separate feeds to NFIB via their individual databases, a proportion of organisations are members of both industry bodies.

It is possible that there may be some double or triple counting between both these sources **and** the offences recorded via direct reports from victims to Action Fraud. For example, police are called to a bank and apprehend an offender for a fraud offence. Police record this crime with Action Fraud and the bank report the same crime to CIFAS or FFA UK as part of their processes. Experts believe this duplication to be so small as to have an insignificant effect on crime trends, but there is no simple cross-referencing method within NFIB to detect the scale of it.

These data from CIFAS and FFA UK are subject to continuing development and ONS is giving consideration as to whether these can be designated as Official Statistics in the future.

CSEW

Fraud is not currently included in the headline CSEW crime estimate. However, the CSEW includes supplementary modules of questions on victimisation across a range of fraud and cyber-crime offences, including plastic card and bank/building society fraud, which are reported separately from the headline estimates. However, such questions do not yield data on the number of times respondents fell victim within the crime reference period. Based on some crude

[39] These frauds are reported separately to FFA UK via a fraud reporting mechanism which does not feed through to NFIB, and so do not appear in the figures we publish.
[40] Fraud losses on UK-issued cards between 2003 and 2013 are reported in the 'Fraud The Facts 2014' publication.

assumptions about the average number of offences experienced by each victim, an estimation (based on the 2012/13 CSEW) suggested that together, plastic card fraud and bank and building society fraud might could contribute between 3.6 and 3.8 million incidents to the current CSEW estimates.

ONS are currently conducting methodological work to develop and test new questions on fraud (both online and offline) and other types of cyber-crime. There are a wide range of associated conceptual challenges that need to be addressed, which include[41]:

- Counting incidents – plastic card or bank account fraud often involve separate 'events' (e.g. card purchases at different retailers, on different days) and a clear set of rules for counting incidents would need to be established. These need to be conceptually sound but also practical in terms of respondents being able to recall and group, or separate, such events into individual incidents.
- Identifying and counting victims, for example, in areas such as bank and credit card (cyber-enabled) fraud, there may be ambiguity about the victim. Is it the bank or financial institution who suffers the loss, or the customer, or both?
- Identifying where the crime took place - while it is often possible to identify where the victim or victims reside, it is often not possible to identify where the offence originated.

- The means for criminals to attempt to commit this type of crime on a grand scale. Thus a single act of uploading a computer virus or sending a malicious e-mail may impact on thousands of people and could (in theory) result in thousands of crimes being recorded.

This work includes developing and cognitively testing questions for inclusion in the survey and fieldwork piloting. It will also include examining what impact adding such questions may have on existing questionnaire length and on existing time series. This work will be extensive and is expected to run throughout most of 2014 with the aim of questions being implemented from 2015/16. A note informing users of progress with this project can be found here.

5.5 Other crimes against society

This high-level category was introduced to separate out crimes which do not normally have a specific identifiable victim. Trends in such offences can reflect changes in police activity rather than in levels of criminality. 'Other crimes against society' comprises categories of 'Drug offences', 'Possession of weapons' 'Public order' and 'Miscellaneous crimes against society'.

[41] For a fuller explanation, see Section 5.4 of the User Guide.

Drug Offences

Drug offences now fall within the broad category other crimes against society. With effect from April 2004, ACPO issued guidance to forces over the recording of warnings for cannabis possession (these were termed 'formal warnings' for cannabis possession prior to January 2007). These were incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules (see Section 3.3 for more information). From January 2009 it has also been possible to issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession (this detection method was not separated from cannabis warnings in statistics for the period to the end of March 2009).

Cannabis warnings will be an outcome in their own right under the new outcomes framework that was introduced in April 2014. Cannabis warnings will be distinct from all other outcome types in the data collected.

In addition, the Home Office produces a separate National Statistics bulletin on 'Drug Misuse Declared' for England and Wales, covering illicit drug use based on results from the CSEW.

Possession of weapons

Possession of weapons offences prior to the quarterly bulletin for the year to March 2013 were included within the 'Violence against the person' category. Following changes to the presentation of classifications used in the presentation of police recorded crime, a new category of possession of weapons offences is included within 'Other crimes against society'. These offences relate to licensing and ownership of weapons, i.e. where there was no violence involved at the time of the offence. Any circumstances in which a weapon has been used against a victim would be covered by other relevant victim-based offences.

Public order offences

These offences cover circumstances where an offender is behaving in a way that causes or would be likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. These classifications would not be used in any circumstances where physical violence is used (or attempted) against a specific victim. The classification may include some cases where violence is used or threatened and the largest proportion will be accounted for by state based crimes recorded where the police have acted to restore public order where no individual victim has been identified.

Miscellaneous crimes against the state

Miscellaneous crimes against society comprises a variety of offences. The largest volume offences include: handling stolen goods, threat to commit criminal damage and perverting the course of justice.

5.6 Hate crime

Hate crime covers any notifiable offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, as having been motivated (entirely or partially) by a hostility or prejudice to a personal characteristic or perceived personal characteristic, such as ethnicity or religion.

In 2007, the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Prison Service (now the National Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system agreed a

common definition of 'hate crime' and five 'strands' that would be monitored centrally[42]. Primarily, this was to ensure a consistent working definition to allow accurate recording and monitoring. The five monitored strands are:

- Disability;
- Gender-identity;
- Race;
- Religion/faith; and
- Sexual orientation.

Crimes based on hostility to age, gender, or appearance, for example, can also be hate crimes, although they are not centrally monitored.

Hate crime can take many forms including:

- physical attacks such as assault, grievous bodily harm and murder, damage to property, offensive graffiti and arson;
- threat of attack including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate, and unfounded, malicious complaints; and
- verbal abuse, insults or harassment − taunting, offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

The police have been recording reported hate crimes since April 2008 for the five monitored strands listed above. Figures (covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2009) were first published by The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2010, and figures for 2011 were published in September 2011[43].

The government made a commitment for the Home Office to publish hate crime figures as part of The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime (2012). Figures recorded by the police for 2011/12 and 2012/13 were published by the Home Office in December 2013 covering the five monitored strands of hate crime (each offence can be assigned more than one hate crime strand)[44]. ACPO also published hate crime figures for 2012; however, data are not directly comparable as the time periods for the collections differ as does the recording methodology (forces record solely one form of monitored hate crime for each offence) and geographical coverage.

Hate crime data from the CSEW were published for the first time in Smith et al., 2012, and updated in December 2013 in An overview of hate crime in England and Wales, 2012/13.

Racially or religiously motivated hate crime

The CSEW question on whether an incident was motivated by race was first introduced in 1988, and has been kept as a separate question since then. CSEW information on racially-motivated hate crime has been previously published in the Ministry of Justice's publication on 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System'.

[42] For the agreed definition of hate incidents / crime, see: http://www.report-it.org.uk.
[43] http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/Press-Releases/ACPO-publishes-hate-crime-data-for-2011-1a1.aspx
[44] An overview of hate crime in England and Wales, 2012/13 available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-overview-of-hate-crime-in-england-and-wales

Religiously-motivated hate crime used to be asked about as a separate question (in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 CSEW) but was merged into the main CSEW question when further hate crime questions referring to sexual orientation, age and disability were introduced in 2007/08. In 2009/10, gender was added as a motivation, and transgender or gender identity was added as a motivation to the 2011/12 survey. Figures on racially and religiously motivated crimes from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 CSEW were reported in Jansson et al., 2007.

Racially aggravated offences are also collated through police recorded crime data and are legally defined under Section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (Section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially and religiously aggravated offences are categorised together in police recorded crime and cannot be separately identified.

5.7 Anti-social behaviour

The term ‘anti-social behaviour’ (ASB) was formalised in the late 1990s to describe a wide range of the nuisance, disorder and crime that affect people’s daily lives.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defined anti-social behaviour in law as someone ‘acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as himself’.

Police recorded ASB incidents

Anti-social behaviour incidents are recorded by the police in accordance with the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR). In many cases these incidents may still be crimes in law, such as littering or dog fouling, but they are not of a level of severity that would result in the recording of a notifiable offence. Thus, they are not included in the main police recorded crime collection.

Figures relating to ASB, however, can be considered alongside those on police recorded (notifiable) crime to provide a more comprehensive view of the crime and disorder that comes to the attention of the police. The effects on a victim of ASB can be similar to that experienced by a victim of a crime; for example, anger, annoyance or fear. ASB incidents are presented on the national crime map service to inform the public of crime and disorder happening in their local area.

Figures should be interpreted as incidents recorded by the police. These figures do, however, provide an incomplete count of the extent of reported ASB as incidents are also reported to other agencies, such as local authorities or social landlords (for example, problems with nuisance neighbours). Such reports will not generally be included in these police figures.

Prior to 2011/12, the police had been using 14 categories, defined by the NSIR, for recording ASB incidents that fall short of being notifiable crimes. While these categories provided a suitable dataset for recording ASB they did not encourage call-handlers to consider vulnerability issues and the risk involved for the caller, other individuals, the community as a whole or the environment if the ASB continued.

From 2011/12, a new set of simplified categories was introduced to change the emphasis from merely recording and responding to incidents to indentifying those vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk and therefore in need of a response before the problems escalate. There are now just three categories of ASB.

Personal

Incidents that are perceived as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group, or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large.

It includes incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents that have a serious impact on people's quality of life.

At one extreme of the spectrum it includes minor annoyance; at the other end it could result in risk of harm, deterioration of health and disruption of mental or emotional well-being, resulting in an inability to conduct normal day to day activities through fear and intimidation.

Nuisance

Incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, irritation, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims.

It includes incidents where behaviour goes beyond the conventional bounds of acceptability and interferes with public interests including health, safety and quality of life.

Just as individuals will have differing expectations and levels of tolerance, communities will have different ideas about what behaviour goes beyond being tolerable or acceptable.

Environmental

Deals with the interface between people and places.

It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, including natural, built and social environments.

This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour while managing and protecting the various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared/public spaces.

Given the change in emphasis from merely categorising and recording incidents to risk assessing incidents and identifying individual, community and environmental vulnerability, the previous 14 ASB categories cannot simply be mapped to one of the three new categories. In addition, certain types of incident that previously would have been recorded as ASB, such as hoax calls, are now recorded under other NSIR categories. For these reasons, figures from 2011/12 onwards are not directly comparable with those from previous years.

Quality in recording of ASB incidents

While incidents are recorded under NSIR in accordance with the same 'victim focused' approach that applies for recorded crime, these figures are not accredited National Statistics and are not subject to the same level of quality assurance as the main recorded crime collection.

A recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, 2012) raised some concerns over the recording of ASB incidents. From the small number of ASB incidents reviewed (around 1,000 across England and Wales):

- some incidents recorded by the police as ASB should have instead been recorded as crimes – findings show that these varied in number between police forces; and
- there was poor identification of repeat, vulnerable and intimidated victims of ASB at the first point of contact.

It is known that a small number of police forces are erroneously duplicating some occurrences of a singular ASB incident where multiple calls have been made.

In addition, HMIC reviews found that there was greater variation in the recording of anti-social incidents across police forces than in recording notifiable offences. The variation in the type of anti-social behaviour incident recorded into the three new strands of 'Personal', 'Nuisance' and 'Environmental' (from 2011/12 onwards) across police forces suggests that there are some discrepancies in how police forces are categorising incidents.

Another HMIC review in 2012 looked at the police service's approach to dealing with ASB and reported that while this has improved since 2010, there is still a large variation in victim satisfaction levels across England and Wales. More can be done to tackle this problem and to identify those at most risk of harm.

Perceptions and experience measured by the CSEW

The CSEW has long-standing questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of anti-social behaviour in their local area. High levels of perceived ASB are determined by responses received to seven individual questions relating to:

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars;
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties;
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places;
- People using or dealing drugs;
- Rubbish or litter lying around;
- Teenagers hanging around on the streets; and
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property.

Perceptions of ASB are measured using a scale based on answers to the seven questions as follows: 'very big problem' = 3, 'fairly big problem' = 2, 'not a very big problem' = 1 and 'not a problem at all' = 0. The maximum score for the seven questions is 21. Respondents with a score of 11 or more on this scale are classified as having a high level of perceived ASB. This scale can only be calculated for the 2001 CSEW onwards as the question on people being drunk or rowdy was only introduced in 2001.

Measures of perceptions of each of the seven types (or strands) of ASB (for example, perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour) are based on the proportion of CSEW respondents who perceive that particular strand to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

From April 2011 questions about perceptions of ASB have been asked of a reduced sample compared with previous years (questions were asked of half of the sample in 2011/12 and a quarter of the sample in 2012/13). National estimates for these questions are still available from 2011/12, but are no longer available at police force area (PFA) level.

New questions about actual experiences of ASB problems were added for the first time to the 2011/12 CSEW. Analysis is presented on the proportions of people who have experienced any of 13 specific types of ASB:

- Begging, vagrancy or homeless people;
- Drink related behaviour;
- Groups hanging around on the streets;
- Inconsiderate behaviour[45];
- Litter, rubbish or dog-fouling;
- Loud music or other noise;
- Nuisance neighbours;
- Out of control or dangerous dogs;
- People being intimidated, verbally abused or harassed;
- People committing inappropriate or indecent sexual acts in public;
- People using or dealing drugs;
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property; and
- Vehicle related behaviour[46].

[45] Includes repeated/inappropriate use of fireworks; youths kicking/throwing balls in inappropriate areas; cycling/skateboarding in pedestrian areas or obstructing pavements; people throwing stones/bottles, etc.
[46] Includes inconvenient/illegal parking; abandoned vehicles; speeding cars/motorcycles; car revving; joyriding, etc.

Chapter 6: Perceptions

6.1 Perceptions of crime levels

Questions on the perception of change in national and local crime have been included in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) since 1996. Perceptions of local crime levels used to be asked of the whole sample that had lived at their address for three or more years, but since April 2008 the question has been asked of one quarter of the sample, irrespective of how long they have lived at their address. For trend comparisons respondents who have lived at their address for less than three years have been excluded from 2008/09 to 2011/12 figures.

6.2 Likelihood of victimisation and worry about crime

Respondents to the CSEW are asked about their perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary, vehicle crime or violent crime. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of burglary is based on those who say they are very or fairly likely to have their home burgled in the next year. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of violent crime is a composite measure of anyone who thinks they are very or fairly likely to be either mugged/robbed or physically attacked by a stranger in the next year, or both. The perceived likelihood of being a victim of vehicle crime is a composite measure of vehicle owners who think they are very or fairly likely to have either a car/van stolen or something stolen from a car/van in the next year, or both. These questions are asked of all respondents, irrespective of whether they have been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

The worry about crime indicator on the CSEW has three components: worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime. The measure for worry about **burglary** is the percentage of respondents who say they are ‘very worried’ about having their home broken into and something stolen. The measure for worry about **car crime** is based on two questions on worry about ‘having your car stolen’ and ‘having things stolen from your car’. It uses a scale which scores answers to the questions as follows: ‘very worried’ = 2; ‘fairly worried’ = 1; ‘not very worried’ and ‘not at all worried’ = 0. Scores for individual respondents are calculated by summing the scores across each question, resulting in an overall score ranging from 0 to 4. The percentage for this component is based on respondents residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a car and who score 3 or 4 on this scale.

The measure for worry about **violent crime** is based on a scale constructed from questions on worry about mugging, rape, physical attack by a stranger and racially motivated assault. The same coding system for question responses is used as for the vehicle crime questions. Once results from the four questions are combined, the scale for the overall score ranges from 0 (i.e. all responses are either ‘not very worried’ or ‘not at all worried’) to 8 (i.e. all responses are ‘very worried’). The percentage for this component is based on respondents who score four or more on this scale.

6.3 Anti-social behaviour

The CSEW measures high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) based on responses to seven individual questions. These are then collated into a single variable measuring perceptions of

ASB, an approach that has been used for the 2001 CSEW onwards. These questions are asked of a quarter sample of all respondents in the 2012/13 survey.

More details about these, and the new questions on experience of ASB asked for the first time in the 2011/12 CSEW, can be found in Section 5.7.

6.4 Confidence in the police and local council

A new set of questions relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local councils were added to the CSEW in October 2007, asking respondents to what extent they agree or disagree with a set of statements. The current question asks respondents for the extent to which they agree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their local area.

In April 2011, changes were made to the filtering of questions in the Performance of the CJS module for the 2011/12 survey year which may have brought about unintentional order effects to responses to questions in this module. A separate methodological note was produced alongside the most recent publication on Public Perceptions of Policing to explore whether changes to questions within the Performance of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) module in the 2011/12 CSEW led to an order effect on responses to questions on attitudes to the police and the CJS. The analysis was designed to test two principal hypotheses:

• That the removal of questions on the CJS for half the respondents led to an increase in positive responses to subsequent questions on the police. Previous analysis has shown that the public are generally more positive about the police than the CJS (see Smith, 2010). In view of this, it is thought that the removal of these questions on the CJS may have resulted in an increase in positive responses to subsequent questions.

• That the removal of two questions on the perceptions of local policing from the Performance of the CJS module led to an increase in positive responses to subsequent questions. Previous findings in relation to the questions that were removed indicate that respondents were generally more negative in their answers compared with subsequent questions. As such it is thought that the removal of these may have resulted in an increase in positive responses to these subsequent questions.

The analysis concluded that changes to the filtering of questions in the Performance of the CJS module in the 2011/12 CSEW had an effect on responses to some of the later questions within that module on:

• Overall rating of the local police;
• Perceptions of the local police; and
• Confidence in the police and local council.

As such, 2011/12 data for these questions are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

The changes do not seem to have had an effect on responses to the questions on confidence in the CJS and therefore data for these questions are comparable over time. A full breakdown of the findings is shown in Table 5 of the methodological note.

6.5 Ratings and perceptions of the local police

The CSEW measures perceptions of the local police both in general terms and in specific aspects of their work. Since April 2003, the CSEW has measured the proportion of those who believe the local police are doing 'a good or excellent' job. In addition, people's perceptions of specific aspects of police work have been measured since October 2004. These questions ask how much people agree or disagree with the following statements:

- The police in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them;
- The police in this area would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason;
- The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are;
- The police in this area understand the issues that affect this community;
- The police in this area are dealing with the things that matter to people in this community; and
- Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area.

Crime maps

Since January 2009 every police force has made maps available on their website giving local crime statistics and details of neighbourhood policing teams in the local area. Questions were included in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 CSEW to find out more about the public's awareness and use of online crime maps. Results from the questions included in the 2009/10 CSEW are published in Scribbins et al., 2010, and results from 2010/11 are published in Chaplin et al., 2011.

The crime map questions were extended in April 2011, to ask about awareness of street level data (introduced in January 2011), and again in April 2012, to ask about awareness of information showing how crimes have been dealt with by the police and courts.

Police Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and other police initiatives

From November 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners were elected by the public to be responsible for overseeing police forces. A CSEW question introduced in April 2012 asks people whether they were aware of these plans. The survey also contains questions about awareness of other police initiatives, such as neighbourhood beat meetings, the single non-emergency number (101), and neighbourhood policing teams.

6.6 Confidence in the criminal justice system

Since October 2007, the CSEW has included a set of questions relating to the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system (CJS). Respondents are asked questions about their perception of the effectiveness of each aspect of the CJS[47] and then asked:

[47] Ministry of Justice have published a report using CSEW data on: Attitudes to sentencing and trust in justice

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service, how confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is effective?

Questions are then asked about the way in which the CJS deals with people (whether victims, witnesses, the accused or the convicted) and respondents are then asked the following overall question:

- Thinking about all of the agencies within the criminal justice system: the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, prisons and the probation service, how confident are you that the criminal justice system as a whole is fair?
- Since April 2011 questions were added to the CSEW about the Family Justice System, including if respondents were aware of mediation and the family justice system and how confident respondents were that family justice courts dealt with certain cases.

Chapter 7: Classifications

7.1 Geographical

ACORN

A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN) was developed by CACI Ltd.[48] and classifies households into one of 62 types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The main five-group breakdowns are characterised as follows:

- Affluent Achievers – lavish lifestyles, executive wealth, mature money.
- Rising Prosperity – city sophisticates, career climbers.
- Comfortably Communities – countryside communities, successful suburbs, steady neighbourhoods, comfortable seniors, starting out.
- Financially Stretched – student life, modest means, striving families, poorer pensioners.
- Urban Adversity – young hardship, struggling estates, difficult circumstances.

The ACORN classification is still available on the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) dataset but the National Statistics Output Area Classification (see OAC below) is now used in standard demographic tables released as part of the National Statistics outputs.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the CSPs are, in nearly all cases, coterminous with local authority areas. They include representatives from the police, health, probation and other local agencies and provide strategies for reducing crime in the area. As at July 2012, there were 324 CSPs in England and Wales. In England they were previously termed Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Recorded crime figures for headline offences for each CSP are published on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website.

Regions

Government Office Regions (GORs) were established across England in 1994. Reflecting a number of government departments they aimed to work in partnership with local people and organisations in order to maximise prosperity and the quality of life within their area. In 1996 the Government Office Regions became the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics. There are currently nine regions in England: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. Wales is not subdivided but listed alongside the England regions in UK-wide statistical comparisons. Government Offices were closed on 31 March 2011 and from 1 April 2011, the areas covered by the former GORs are referred to as 'regions' for statistical purposes.

[48] See http://acorn.caci.co.uk/ for more information.

Indices of Deprivation

Local area deprivation is measured in this report using the English Indices of Deprivation 2010. There are seven domains of deprivation: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and services; living environment; and crime. There are a number of indicators of deprivation in each of these domains, such as level of unemployment and incapacity benefit claimants, which are combined into a single deprivation score for each local area on that domain. The analysis in this report uses the employment deprivation indicator.

In order to examine the relationship between experiences of crime and deprivation, the local areas are ranked according to their scores on the employment deprivation domain. The 20 per cent of areas with the highest deprivation scores are identified as the most deprived areas on the employment deprivation domain and the 20 per cent of areas with the lowest deprivation scores are identified as the least deprived.

An Index of Multiple Deprivation is also available, which combines all seven separate domains into one index. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 are the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government; further information is available here: English indices of deprivation 2010. Further information on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 is available at www.wales.gov.uk.

Local Authority Areas

These areas are a combination of metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and London boroughs. As at 1 April 2010, there were 348 local authorities in England and Wales. These areas provide the basis for Community Safety Partnerships; although since their formation a number of partnerships have merged to cover multiple local authority areas (see also Community Safety Partnerships). In some cases figures are reported for local authority areas that applied in 2002/03 for the sake of continuity, even where there have been amalgamations.

Output Area Classification (OAC)

The 2011 Classification of OAs is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters and are derived using 2011 population census data. The OAC is a classification created in collaboration between ONS and the University of Leeds/University College London.

The classification is freely available from ONS and other sources for all to use and complements commercially available classifications.

Further information and details about OAC can be found on the ONS website at: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/area-classifications/ns-area-classifications/ns-2011-area-classifications/index.html

Physical disorder

This term is used in the CSEW to describe a measure based on the interviewer's assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property; (b) rubbish and litter; and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A

scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3. The measurement of respondents' own perceptions of disorder in the local area is described under anti-social behaviour (see Section 5.7).

Rural and urban areas

The analysis of crime in rural and urban areas is based on the ONS recommended method for categorising the level of rurality. There are two approaches: the ONS Rural/Urban Definition and the Local Authority (LA) Classification. Both were developed to produce a view of rural and urban areas from Government Statistics. Where data below the LA level is available the ONS Rural/Urban Definition must be used to produce rural and urban totals. Where LA level data is the lowest geographic data available then the LA Classification should be used. More detail is given below.

For CSEW analysis, the Rural/Urban Definition has been used, as CSEW data are collected below the Local Authority level. For police recorded crime analysis, the LA Classification has been used, as police recorded crime data are not collected below the LA level.

Rural/Urban Definition (England and Wales)

The Rural/Urban Definition, an official National Statistic, was introduced in 2004 and defines the rurality of Output Areas. Categories used to aggregate to rural or urban are as follows.

Rural areas are those classified as:

- Town and fringe – sparse.
- Village – sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – sparse.
- Town and fringe – less sparse.
- Village – less sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse.

Urban areas are those classified as:

- Urban – sparse.
- Urban – less sparse.

Rural/Urban Local Authority (LA) Classification (England)

The revised LA Classification introduced in 2009, differentiates between rural and urban for those statistics that are only available at LA level. The three-way classification at the similar Community Safety Partnership level and Police Force Area level has been applied. At the Community Safety Partnership level, the classification is as follows:

Predominantly Rural areas are those classified as:

- Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
- Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent but less than 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Significant Rural areas are those classified as districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

Predominantly Urban areas are those classified as:

- Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.
- Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
- Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.

A different methodology but with similar criteria is used to produce the three-way classification at the police force area level.

Super Output Areas (SOAs)

These are aggregated geographical areas built from Output Areas. Introduced in 2004 and updated following the 2011 Census they are designed for the collection and publication of small area statistics and as the building blocks for all National Statistics on a geographical basis. To support a range of potential requirements there are two layers of SOA:

- Lower Layer – Built from groups of Output Areas (typically five)
- Middle Layer – Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs

7.2 Household

Household accommodation type

The CSEW uses this definition of the household's accommodation, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- House or bungalow: detached, semi-detached and terraced.
- Flat or maisonette: includes purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.
- Other accommodation types: includes caravans and mobile homes.

Household reference person (HRP)

For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics harmonised classifications, the CSEW replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure

The classification of households in the CSEW is based on the number and combination of adults and children living within a household, divided into those where there is:

- one adult and one or more children (under 16) – this does not necessarily denote a lone parent family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16); and
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

Household income

Total household income is the combined income of all members of the household. It includes income from all sources including earnings from employment and self-employment, pensions (both state and private), benefits and tax credits, interest from savings and investments, maintenance, student grants and rent payments received. Due to the nature of the question, over one fifth of respondents gave insufficient information to classify their household income or declined to answer the question. Those cases with insufficient information may include respondents who did not know the income of other household members.

Tenure

The following definition of tenure is used by the CSEW based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Owners: households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social-rented sector tenants: households renting from a council, housing association or other social-rented sector.
- Rented privately: households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

7.3 Personal

Black and minority ethnic groups/ethnicity

CSEW respondents are asked to make a choice from a card to identify their ethnic background using the standard National Statistics harmonised classification, this classification is based on the 2011 Census question. Due to small sample sizes, it is necessary to collapse this classification into either a five-fold classification, i.e. White, Black, Asian, Mixed and Chinese or Other or to a simpler two-fold White and Non-White classification, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification. The standard demographic tables released annually provide breakdowns by ethnic background; the last topic based analysis from the CSEW focusing on the experiences of people from different ethnic minorities are reported in Jansson et al., 2007.

Marital status

The CSEW uses the following categories for marital status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Married – includes same sex civil partnerships;
- Cohabiting;
- Single;
- Separated – includes same sex civil partnerships;

- Divorced – includes legally dissolved same sex civil partnerships;
- Widowed – includes surviving civil partners.

Employment status

The CSEW uses the following categories for employment status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification but include further breakdowns for those in the 'economically inactive' category.

- In employment: includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government-supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed: actively seeking work or waiting to take up work.
- Economically inactive: those who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

Base sizes for the student categories of employment status differ from those in the occupational classification (see Occupation below). Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active. Full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding.

Occupation (NS-SEC)

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) is an occupationally based classification, but provides coverage of the whole adult population. The NS-SEC aims to differentiate positions within labour markets and production units in terms of their typical 'employment relations'.

CSEW analysis is based on the three analytic classes provided within NS-SEC, but also describes full-time students in a separate category (usually included within the 'Not classified' category). Base sizes for the student categories differ in NS-SEC from those in the economic classification (see Employment status above) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

Chapter 8: Statistical conventions and methods

8.1 Confidence intervals and statistical significance

The main Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are based on a representative sample of the population of England and Wales aged 16 and over each year. A sample, as used in the CSEW, is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn (see Table UG1 of the User Guide tables for sample sizes within the CSEW).

Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. It is, however, possible to calculate a range of values around an estimate, known as the confidence interval (also referred to as margin of error) of the estimate. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that the confidence interval would contain the true population value 95 times out of 100. This can be thought of as a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate.

Because of this variation, changes in estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview.

We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only increases or decreases that are statistically significant at the five per cent level (and are therefore likely to be real) are described as changes within the main bulletin and in the tables and figures these are identified by asterisks.

Confidence intervals on the CSEW are based on complex standard errors (CSEs) around estimates, which reflect the stratified and semi-clustered design of the survey and are calculated using the SPSS Complex Sample Module (www.spss.com). Where standard errors are calculated without the complex element, a design effect of 1.2 is applied to the confidence interval and significance testing to allow for the fact that the survey design is not a simple random sample.

Statistical significance for change in CSEW estimates for overall crime and all theft offences cannot be calculated in the same way as for other CSEW estimates. This is because there is an extra stage of sampling used in a personal crime rate (selecting the adult respondent for interview) compared with a household crime rate (where the respondent represents the whole household) so, technically, these are estimates from two different, though obviously highly related, surveys. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) methodology group has provided an approximation method to use to overcome this problem.

The approach involves producing population-weighted variances associated with two approximated estimates for overall crime. The first approximation is derived by apportioning household crime equally among adults within the household (in other words, converting households into adults) and

second by apportioning personal crimes to all household members (converting adults into households). The variances are calculated in the same way as for standard household or personal crime rates (i.e. taking into account the complex sample design). An average is then taken of the two estimates of the population-weighted variances. The resulting approximated variance is then used in the calculation of confidence intervals for the estimates of all CSEW crime / all theft offences and in the calculation of the sampling error around changes in estimates of all CSEW crime / all theft offences to calculate whether such differences are statistically significant.

This method incorporates the effect of any covariance between household and personal crime. By taking an average of the two approximations, it also counteracts any possible effect on the estimates of differing response rates (and therefore calibration rates) by household size.

Tables UG2 to UG5 provide 95 per cent confidence intervals around estimates; Table UG2 shows main estimates of incidents of crime; Table UG3 shows main estimates of victimisation and key perception measures; Table UG4 shows main estimates of personal victimisation by respondent sex and age; and Table UG5 shows main estimates of household victimisation by household reference person age and tenure.

Tables UG6 to UG8 provide 95 per cent confidence intervals around estimates pertaining to 10 to 15 year olds; Table UG6 shows main estimates of crimes; Table UG7 shows main estimates of incidence rates for crimes; and Table UG8 shows main estimates of prevalence rates for crimes.

8.2 Weighting data

Two types of weighting are used in the CSEW sample.

First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection involved in the sample design. These include: the over-sampling of less populous police force areas; the selection of multi-household addresses; and the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household. Further details about the unequal selection probability compensation weighting are available in Chapter 7 of the 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales Technical Report: Volume One. This weighting is conducted by TNS-BMRB (CSEW contractor) before the data are received by ONS.

Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response; this weighting is conducted by ONS upon receipt of the data from TNS-BMRB. All CSEW percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables in the 2013/14 crime statistics publication are based on weighted data. Table UG1 shows the unweighted base, which represents the number of people/households interviewed in the specified group.

Calibration weighting

A review of the then British Crime Survey by survey methodology experts at ONS and the National Centre for Social Research recommended that the calibration weighting method be adopted (Lynn and Elliot, 2000). The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different regions and different age by sex sub-groups. For example, a household containing a man aged 24 living in London may be less likely to respond than a household containing a woman aged 50 living in the South West. The procedure therefore gives

different weights to different households and individuals based on their sex / age / regional composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of responding household and individuals in these households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole.

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls; they are based on calibrating on population estimates / projections provided by ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 CSEW onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); since 2006/07 the CSEW has used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

For data relating to the year ending March 2014, a new non-response weight has been introduced. Previously the non response weight was calculated where each household was classified as either 'inner city' or not and the weight was equal to the one divided by the estimated household response rate for the relevant class. It was recommended that this weight was replaced by one derived from a logistic regression model with multiple predictors. The predictors include:

- NUTS1 region;
- Output Area Classification Group;
- the eightfold ONS urban/rural indicator; and
- LSOA census proportion of households containing one person (or the factor with which it is correlated).

These predictors are applied to the dataset to produce an estimated household response propensity for each responding case.

The effects of calibration weights are generally small for household-level crime, but are likely to be more important for estimates of personal-level crime, as for example, young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average but also lower response rates to the survey. However, there was only a marginal impact seen in crime trends when calibration weighting was first implemented in the 1996 survey

8.3 Population estimates

Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) uses population estimates for two purposes: in calibration weighting (see above) and in calculating the estimates of numbers of crimes (see Chapter 2).

For the calculation of estimates for numbers of CSEW incidence, rates for personal-level crimes are multiplied by estimates (or projections for the most recent time-period) of the population aged 16 and over in England and Wales and for household-level crimes by estimates (or again, projections for the most recent time-period) of the number of households in England and Wales.

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Following the completion of a programme of work to re-weight CSEW data on the 2011 Census-based population and household estimates, from the 'Crime Statistics, year ending March 2014' release onwards, both the CSEW and police recorded crime data are using 2011 Census-based estimates.

CSEW estimates from 2001/02 to 2012/13 have been re-weighted using 2011 Census-based population and household estimates; estimates for 2013/14 have also been calculated using the new population and household estimates[49].

Two methodological improvements have been made to population data used in the production of CSEW estimates from 2001/02 onwards:

- using household-only population estimates; and
- linearly interpolating population estimates to more closely match the CSEW reference period.

Household-only population estimates

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which adults (aged 16 and over) resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to their interview.

Previously, in the calculation of crime estimates, incidence rates for personal-level crimes were multiplied by estimates for the total population aged 16 and over in England and Wales, not just those resident in households. But the CSEW, by its very nature, does not sample from the entire adult population of England and Wales; it only interviews adults resident in households. The CSEW does not cover people living in group residences (for example, students' halls of residence and NHS nurses' accommodation) or other institutions (for example, prisons), or homeless people.

By including the non-household-resident population in the calculation of crime estimates, this assumes that the household-resident and non-household-resident populations experience similar levels of crime victimisation, and this is unlikely to be true.

Therefore, CSEW estimates have previously been calculated using marginally larger population totals than are most appropriate. It is more logical to multiply incidence rates for personal-level crimes by the household-resident only population, as this is the population the CSEW covers.

2011 Census-based household-resident only population data have been supplied to enable the calculation of CSEW estimates in accordance with this new approach; these have been incorporated into the re-weighting of the 2001/02 to 2012/13 adults (aged 16 and over) data and the re-weighting of the 2009/10 to 2012/13 children's (aged 10 to 15) data.

CSEW data prior to 2001/02 remained unaffected, as the 2011-Census based population estimates only back-dated those since the previous Census (2001).

[49] At the time ONS began production of CSEW statistics for the 'Crime Statistics, year ending March 2014' publication, mid-2013 (and hence end of March-2013) population estimates were not available. (2010-based) population projections for the mid-2013 (and hence end of March-2013) population were therefore used.

This has introduced a minor inconsistency in the adult CSEW time series between 1999 and 2001/02. No linear interpolation would be necessary on the population estimates used for the pre-2001/02 CSEW years (1981 to 1999), because respondents were asked about their experiences of crime in that year, meaning the mid-point of the reference period would be as at the end of June. But, CSEW data for years prior to 2001/02 have not been updated to be based upon the household-resident only populations.

However, the effects of the weighting updates on the post-1999 CSEW estimates are minimal and have not altered any trends (see 'Effect on CSEW data'). It is reasonable to assume that any amendments to pre-2001/02 CSEW estimates would also be minimal, and therefore, comparisons between post-1999 and pre-2001/02 CSEW data are still sufficiently robust.

No adjustment was necessary to the England and Wales household population data published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in the calculation of household-level crimes. These data already relate only to households; they exclude communal establishments (for example: students' halls of residence; sheltered accommodation; and prisons).

Linear interpolation of population estimates

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey in which adults (aged 16 and over) resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of a range of crimes in the 12 months prior to their interview. Data are typically published for a 12-month interview period; for example, data for 2012/13 relate to interviews that took place between April 2012 and March 2013.

For 2012/13, the earliest month an interview takes place is April 2012, and because respondents are asked about crimes that took place in the 12 months prior to their interview, this means that the earliest crimes recorded by the 2012/13 CSEW occur in April 2011. Similarly, the latest month an interview takes place is March 2013, meaning the latest crimes recorded by the 2012/13 CSEW occur in February 2013. The mid point of the period 'April 2011 to February 2013' is March 2012, and therefore, the most appropriate population / household estimates to multiply CSEW incidence rates by, would be as at the end of March 2012.

However, published population (and household) estimates, are mid-year data; that is, for a given year, they relate to the population / households in England in Wales as at the end of June of that year. So previously, CSEW estimates for 2012/13 were calculated from mid-2012 (end of June 2012) population data.

It is possible to calculate an estimate for the population as at the end of March 2012 by linearly interpolating on two surrounding data points in the time-series. This approach is valid given that the components of population change, namely: births, deaths and net migration, can be assumed to occur equally spread out across the year (for example, not all births occur in January, or all deaths in February; rather, they occur throughout the year).

So, using the example of the 2012/13 CSEW, given end of June 2011 and end of June 2012 population estimates, estimates as at the end of March 2012 can be calculated as follows:

March 2012 = June 2011 + ((June 2012 - June 2011) * 0.75)

Population estimates as at the end of September 2011 and December 2011 could be calculated by replacing the 0.75 multiplication factor by 0.25 and 0.50 respectively.

For households, the linear interpolation was constrained to just two data points: the estimates for the number of households for mid-2001 and mid-2011; 2011 Census-based estimates for the intermediate years were not produced by DCLG. Estimates for mid-2002 to mid-2010 were themselves linearly interpolated from the mid-2001 and mid-2011 estimates, and end-of-March estimates linearly interpolated from these. Although less accurate (having only two data points ten years apart) this approach remains valid given that in the pre-2011 Census-based estimates, the estimated numbers of households had been continually increasing (not fluctuating up and down). Also, similarly to the individual population, the creation and break-up of households can be assumed to occur equally spread out across the time period.

In future quarterly crime statistics publications from 'Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2014' onwards, CSEW estimates from 2001/02 onwards will be calculated from population and household estimates that have been successively linearly interpolated onwards by three months (except for year ending June data, as the population and household estimates are already produced as at the end of June).

2011 Census-based population and household data (mid-year; as at the end of June) back to 2001/02 have been linearly interpolated to be as at the end of March to enable the calculation of CSEW estimates in accordance with this new approach; these have been incorporated into the re-weighting of the 2001/02 to 2012/13 adults (aged 16 and over) data and the re-weighting of the 2009/10 to 2012/13 children (aged 10 to 15) data.

No linear interpolation is necessary on the population estimates used for the pre-2001/02 CSEW years (1981-1999), because respondents were asked about their experiences of crime in that year, meaning the mid-point of the reference period for these years would be as at the end of June.

The population and household estimates used in the calculation of CSEW estimates are presented in Table 8a.

Table 8a: Population figures used to calculate CSEW estimates (rounded to nearest hundred)

CSEW year	Population base	Individual population (16 and over)	Households
1982	Mid-1981	38,724,000	18,387,000
1984	Mid-1983	39,127,000	18,618,000
1988	Mid-1987	40,040,700	19,414,000
1992	Mid-1991	40,500,800	20,278,700
1994	Mid-1993	40,531,200	20,524,900
1996	Mid-1995	40,686,300	20,782,400
1998	Mid-1997	40,965,900	21,045,500
2000	Mid-1999	41,325,100	21,347,000
2001/02	End of March-2001	40,899,400	21,685,500
2002/03	End of March-2002	41,183,100	21,861,400
2003/04	End of March-2003	41,463,900	22,030,600
2004/05	End of March-2004	41,770,500	22,201,300
2005/06	End of March-2005	42,170,000	22,369,900
2006/07	End of March-2006	42,560,100	22,539,400
2007/08	End of March-2007	42,971,300	22,710,300
2008/09	End of March-2008	43,391,400	22,881,700
2009/10	End of March-2009	43,752,900	23,051,700
2010/11	End of March-2010	44,131,000	23,220,600
2011/12	End of March-2011	44,527,900	23,394,300
2012/13	End of March-2012	44,900,500	23,615,400
2013/14	End of March-2013	45,282,400	23,850,600
Year ending June 2014	End of June-2013	44,991,500	23,909,300

The calculation of estimates of CSEW incidence rates for personal crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 are multiplied by the estimates of the population aged between 10 and 15 in England and Wales in the same manner (Table 8b)

Table 8b: Population figures used to calculate CSEW estimates for crime experienced by children aged 10 to 15 (rounded to nearest hundred)

CSEW year	Population base	Individual population (children aged 10 to 15)
2009/10	End of March-2009	3,969,500
2010/11	End of March-2010	3,936,100
2011/12	End of March-2011	3,898,500
2012/13	End of March-2012	3,830,700
2013/14	End of March-2013	3,763,400
Year ending June 2014	End of June-2013	3,811,200

All population and household estimates / projections used in the actual calculations of CSEW data are unrounded.

Further details about the re-weighting and methodological changes to the population / household estimates used in the calculation of numbers of CSEW incidents are available in the methodological note accompanying the 'Crime Statistics, year ending March 2014' release.

Police recorded crime

Crime rates derived from police recorded crime figures are based upon total mid-year population estimates for England and Wales (Table 8c).

Table 8c: Population figures used to derive crime rates from police recorded crime figures (rounded to nearest hundred)

Year	Population based on mid-year	Resident population of England and Wales
2002/03	2001	52,360,000
2003/04	2002	52,602,100
2004/05	2003	52,863,200
2005/06	2004	53,152,000
2006/07	2005	53,575,300
2007/08	2006	53,950,900
2008/09	2007	54,387,400
2009/10	2008	54,841,700
2010/11	2009	55,235,300
2011/12	2010	55,692,400
2012/13	2011	56,170,900
2013/14	2012	56,567,800
Year ending June 2014	2013	56,948,200

All population estimates used in the actual calculations of police recorded crime rates are unrounded.

8.4 Logistic regression

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, from a set of independent variables (such as personal, household, area or behavioural characteristics associated with a CSEW respondent). The dependent variable must have only two possible outcomes; for example, logistic regression can model the risk of a person becoming a victim of a crime or not. The technique allows the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables in the model is taken into account.

The approach using CSEW data is based on an iterative process, which relies on a theoretical rationale of how the independent variables might affect the outcome. This process enables evaluation of the impact of certain types of variables on the outcome, for example, if the risk of being a victim of crime is due to personal characteristics rather than area-based factors.

Each of the iterations is based on logistic regressions using the 'Enter' method; the final model is also run using a 'Forward stepwise' regression to evaluate the strength of the contribution that each variable makes to that model. The '-2 log likelihood' statistic (minus two times the log of the likelihood, also known as the 'scaled deviance') of each model is presented as a measure indicating how much of the outcome remains unexplained by the independent variables. The fit of each model is compared using a likelihood-ratio test to see if the subsequent iteration predicts the outcome significantly better (this is the case when the difference of the '-2 log likelihoods' of both models exceeds a critical value).

The Nagelkerke R square statistic is presented as a measure indicating how much the independent variables predict the dependent variable. The model which has the highest value is the model that is considered to have the best fit. It can only be used to compare models predicting the same dependent variable in the same dataset.

The odds of an event (for example, victimisation or taking illicit drugs) are calculated as the ratio of the probabilities of occurrence and non-occurrence of the event. Logistic regression describes the impact of independent variables by comparing the odds of a subgroup of interest with a fixed reference category set by the analyst; within a variable all other categories are compared with this reference category. The result is a measure describing the association between the two groups, which is termed the 'odds ratio'. To explain further, when the reference category within the variable 'sex' is defined as 'women' and the odds ratio within the model predicting risk of violence victimisation is three, this means the odds for becoming a victim of violence are three times higher for men compared with women.

However, odds ratios can be hard to interpret as they do not give any indication of the actual probabilities of certain outcomes for separate groups. Therefore, it is sometimes useful to translate the odds that are provided by the logistic regression model into 'probabilities'. The probability of an event can then be compared between groups. Within CSEW analysis the ratio between two groups can be described as relative risk (for example, risk of burglary victimisation), relative prevalence

(for example, prevalence of illicit drug use) or relative likelihood (for example, likelihood of worry about crime).

Probabilities can be calculated from the β-coefficients in the tables using the following formula:
Probability = $EXP(\beta_{constant} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3...) / (1+ EXP(\beta_{constant} + \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3...))$

In this formula, $\beta_{constant}$ is the β-coefficient of the constant, and $\beta_{1,2,3,etc}$ are the β-coefficients of individual characteristics. Where a reference category is chosen, it has a β-coefficient of 0 and therefore does not need to be included in the calculation. Where a model contains an interaction term, the values for the two characteristics in the interaction term are multiplied together to find the β-coefficient to add to the formula.

As an example, the relative risk of being a victim of violence between two individuals is expressed in Box 3.2 of Flatley et al., 2010. In this example, the characteristics that are varied are age, sex and marital status, while all other characteristics remain constant. The characteristics that remain constant are: white, no long-standing illness or disability, in employment, managerial and professional occupations, degree or diploma, household income of £30,000-£40,000, homeowner, detached house, urban, prospering suburbs, not high level of physical disorder, seven hours or longer out of the home on an average weekday, visited a bar less than once a week in the last month, did not visit a nightclub in the last month.

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 23 year old single man with all the above characteristics is:
EXP(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) / 1+EXP(-5.79+1.32+0.58+0.61+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) = 5.4%

The risk of being a victim of violent crime for a 55 year old married woman with all the above characteristics is:
EXP(-5.79-1.67+(0.21*5)+0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) / 1+ EXP(-5.79-1.67+(0.21*5)+ 0.58+0.18-0.24+0.17+0.25+0.07) = 0.4%

The relative risk[50] is:
Risk for a 23 year old single man / Risk for a 55 year old married woman = 12.3

8.5 Conventions used in figures and tables

The following conventions are used in the crime statistics publication and the user guide (where applicable).

Table abbreviations

‘0’ indicates greater than 0 per cent but less than 0.5 per cent (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).

‘:’ indicates that the CSEW question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.

[50] The relative risk presented here is calculated using unrounded figures.

‘-’ indicates that for recorded crime percentage changes are not reported because the base number of offences is less than 50 and for the CSEW indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50.

‘..’ indicates for police recorded crime that data are not available.

‘*’ indicates for CSEW data that the change is statistically significant at the five per cent level.

‘+’ indicates that rate per 1,000 population data for City of London have been suppressed due to the small population size of the police force area.

Unweighted base

All CSEW percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of adults/households interviewed in the specified group.

Percentages

Perception measures are presented as integers; victimisation measures are presented to one decimal place.

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Most CSEW tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of people/households who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100 per cent, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and, therefore, may differ from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

Year-labels on CSEW figures and tables

Prior to 2001/02, CSEW respondents were asked about their experience of crime in the previous calendar year, so year-labels identify the year in which the crime took place. Following the change to continuous interviewing in 2001/02, respondents’ experience of crime relates to the 12 full months prior to interview (see Chapter 2) and year-labels identify the CSEW year of interview.

Other questions on the CSEW (for example, attitudes to policing, confidence in the criminal justice system) ask the respondent their current views or attitudes and thus the data are referenced as the year in which the respondent was interviewed (for example, 1996, 2008/09).

‘No answers’ (missing values)

All CSEW analysis excludes don’t know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

Numbers of CSEW incidents

Estimates are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Chapter 9: CSEW Open Data tables

9.1 Introduction to Open Data tables

This chapter contains information on the content and use of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) Open Data tables. These tables contain CSEW estimates related to victimisation and perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system (CJS) broken down by demographic characteristics. These tables are released as part of an initiative to make government data more transparent and accessible to the public and external researchers.

For users wanting to access full CSEW datasets, these are available from the CSEW section of the UK Data Archive – please see chapter 10 for further information.

It is recommended that prior to using these Open Data tables, users read Chapter 2, in particular, of this user guide to familiarise themselves with the context of the data and the scope and limitations of the CSEW as a whole.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is now producing editions of the Open Data tables, following the responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferring to ONS from the Home Office in April 2012. At present there are no plans to produce a back series to cover earlier CSEW years.

9.2 Table format

The main release consists of six data tables, all with an identical layout. The files have been split by theme, but because all have the same layout they can all be combined into a single table after download.

Tables are laid out in rows and columns with the first row containing column headings. Each row consists of a single CSEW estimate, while each column contains information about the estimate. Estimates are principally broken down by respondent characteristics (identified by the **Sex**, **Age**, **HouseholdType**, and **Characteristic** columns). However, other columns provide further information on the estimate, such as the time period it relates to (identified by the **Period**, **LastQuarter** and **LastYear** columns). Further details can be found in the ‘Data table specification’ section of this chapter.

This layout is intended to provide CSEW estimates in the most transparent and versatile form for users and allow data to be linked with, for example, ONS population estimates for the calculation of numbers of crimes. Further details can be found in the ‘How to use CSEW Open Data tables’ section of this chapter.

All files are made available in CSV (comma separated values) format which arranges data in rows and columns as outlined above. This type of file can be opened in most data analysis programmes.

In addition to the six main tables, two additional reference tables have been included in this release. See the ‘Reference data tables’ section of this chapter for more information on these.

9.3 File naming

The six main tables are contained in files which use the following naming structure:

'[Measurement Type]-[Measurement Subcategory]-[Date].csv'

Eg Household-Incidence-2014-Q1.csv

The [Measurement Type] and [Measurement Subcategory] sections of the filename are used to identify the content of the data file. There are three different values for [Measurement Type], each containing two values for [Measurement Subcategory]. An outline of what these values are and a description of what is contained in the files can be found in Table 9a.

The [Date] section of the filename identifies the CSEW dataset that the release was taken from. It follows the same convention as the **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** columns in the tables themselves (see the 'Data table specification' section of this chapter).

Table 9a: File naming

Measurement type	Measurement subcategory	Description	Example of data in file
Household	Incidence	Contains incidence rates for household crime	Number of incidents of burglary per 1,000 households in the 12 months prior to interview
	Prevalence	Contains prevalence rates for household crime	Percentage of households that have been victims of burglary in the 12 months prior to interview
Personal	Incidence	Contains incidence rates for personal crime	Number of incidents of violence per 1,000 adults in the 12 months prior to interview
	Prevalence	Contains prevalence rates for personal crime	Percentage of adults who have been victims of violence in the 12 months prior to interview
Perceptions	CJS	Contains perceptions of the police and the criminal justice system	Percentage of adults who think that their local police are doing a good or excellent job
	Other	Contains other perceptions of crime	Percentage of adults who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area

9.4 Data table specification

Data tables are laid out in rows and columns. Each row contains a single CSEW estimate, which each column contains information about that estimate. Below is a description of the meaning behind the values in each column.

SOURCE

Possible values: CSEW

This column identifies the source of the estimate. For this release, this column contains only one value: ‘CSEW’. This field is provided to allow future releases to include data from different sources.

PERIOD

Possible values: 12 months

This column identifies the period covered by the data used to generate the estimate. For this release, this column contains only one value: ’12 months’. This indicates that the estimate is based on 12 months of CSEW interviews. This field is provided to allow future releases to include data from different period lengths.

LASTYEAR

Possible values: Various

Combined with the **Period** and **LastQuarter** columns, this column identifies the CSEW interview period that the estimate is based on. The combination of **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** identifies the *last* quarter of interviews that **Period** covers. For example, **Period** = ’12 months’, **LastYear** = ‘2014’ and **LastQuarter** = ‘1’ denotes that the estimate is based on CSEW interviews between April 2013 and March 2014 – i.e. the 12 months ending in quarter 1 of 2014.

LASTQUARTER

Possible values: Various

Combined with the **Period** and **LastYear** columns, this column identifies the CSEW interview period that the estimate is based on. The combination of **LastYear** and **LastQuarter** identifies the *last* quarter of interviews that **Period** covers. For example, **Period** = ’12 months’, **LastYear** = ‘2014’ and **LastQuarter** = ‘1’ denotes that the estimate is based on CSEW interviews between April 2013 and March 2014 – i.e. the 12 months ending in quarter 1 of 2014.

MEASUREMENTVAR

Possible values: Various (see reference table)

This is the name of the variable that is being measured by the estimate. It could also be considered a dependent variable. In this release it is a crime incidence rate, a crime prevalence rate or a perception of crime. Future releases may contain a wider range of measurements. The variable name is a shorthand way of referring to the measurement in question, therefore the meaning of the values in this column may not be immediately obvious to users. A reference table has been provided with this release that contains more descriptive labels for each of the variable names in this column. For users who have access to the main CSEW dataset from the UK Data Archive, the names here match directly with the variable names on the main CSEW dataset.

GEOGRAPHY

Possible values: England and Wales

This column identifies the geographical area that the estimate relates to. For this release, only estimates for the whole of England and Wales are included. Future releases may provide regional breakdowns.

AGE

Possible values: 16+; 16-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65-74; 75+

This column identifies the age of the respondent at the time of interview. Respondents are arranged into banded age groups, with the category of '16+' covering respondents in all age groups combined. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Person' (see reference table).

SEX

Possible values: All adults; Male; Female

The column identifies the sex of the respondent. The category of 'All adults' covers men and women combined. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Person' (see reference table).

HOUSEHOLDTYPE

Possible values: All households; Vehicle-owning households; Bicycle-owning households

This column identifies the type of household that the estimate relates to, specifically whether the household owns a vehicle or bicycle. Most estimates relate to 'All households'. 'Vehicle-owning households' and 'Bicycle-owning households' provide an alternative measure for the prevalence of vehicle-related crime and bicycle theft respectively and as such only have a value for these measures. This column only contains values where **MeasurementLevel** is 'Household' (see reference table).

CHARACTERISTICVAR

Possible values: Various (see reference table), GOR, Total

This column identifies the variable that is used to provide the full breakdown of estimates by respondent characteristics in the **Characteristic** column. It could also be considered an independent variable. It is similar to the **MeasurementVar** column in that it contains variable names that match the variable names on the main CSEW dataset. More descriptive labels for the variable names in this column can be found in the reference table for this column.

The value 'GOR' identifies estimates for each of the English regions and for England and Wales separately. The value 'Total' in this column identifies an estimate that covers all respondents, regardless of individual characteristics. Users should be aware that some characteristics only exist at the personal level and some only exist at the household level (identified in the **MeasurementLevel** column – see reference table).

CHARACTERISTIC

Possible values: Various; Total

This column identifies respondent characteristics that the estimate relates to. Characteristics are grouped by **CharacteristicVar** such that each value of **CharacteristicVar** has a number of unique values for **Characteristic** associated with it. As well as those characteristics included on the main CSEW dataset within each **CharacteristicVar**, the Open Data tables also include some combined categories that are not included on the CSEW core variables. The value 'Total' in this column identifies an estimate that covers all respondents, regardless of individual characteristics and is the only **Characteristic** for the **CharacteristicVar** of 'Total'.

ESTIMATE

Possible values: Various

This column contains the estimate for **MeasurementVar** for respondents with the characteristics referred to at **Geography**, **Age**, **Sex**, **HouseholdType** and **Characteristic** from CSEW interviews conducted in the period identified by **Period**, **LastQuarter** and **LastYear**. When **MeasurementType** is 'Incidence rate' it is a rate per 1,000 adults/households; where **MeasurementType** is 'Prevalence rate' or 'Perception' it is a percentage (see reference table).

STANDARDERROR

Possible values: Various

This column contains the standard error of the value of **Estimate**. As the CSEW is a sample survey, all estimates are subject to a degree of error, reflected in the size of the standard error – see the 'How to use CSEW Open Data tables' section below for more information. More advanced users may also want to know that as the CSEW is based on a complex sample design, the standard errors included in these tables are complex standard errors that take the sample design into account. This means that no further adjustments, such as design factors, need to be applied to calculations involving these standard errors.

UNWEIGHTEDCOUNT

Possible values: Various

Also referred to as the 'Unweighted base', this column shows the total number of respondents who contributed to the calculation of **Estimate**. Estimates based on a larger number of respondents are generally more reliable, and those based on a very small number of respondents should be treated with caution. It is recommended that users refrain from using estimates based on fewer than 50 respondents. They have been included here for reference and in the interests of completeness.

9.5 Reference data tables

There are two reference data tables included with this release; one each for the columns **MeasurementVar** and **CharacteristicVar**. These provide additional information on the variables included in these two columns in the main data tables. They can be used as lookups to include this additional data in combined tables. The data specification for these tables is below.

Measurement

MEASUREMENTVAR

Possible values: Various

This includes all the values in the MeasurementVar column of the main data tables.

MEASUREMENTLABEL

Possible values: Various

This column contains a text description of the measure that MeasurementVar relates to.

MEASUREMENTLEVEL

Possible values: Person; Household

This column identifies the level at which the measurement applies. For personal crimes and perception measures, this column has a value of ‘Person’ to indicate that the estimate applies to people (specifically adults aged 16 and over). For household crimes, this column has a value of ‘Household’ to indicate that the estimate applies to households in England and Wales.

MEASUREMENTTYPE

Possible values: Incidence rate; Prevalence rate; Perception

This column identifies the type of measurement. ‘Incidence rate’ means that the measurement shows the number of crimes per 1,000 adults or per 1,000 households (identified by the **MeasurementLevel** column) in the last 12 months. ‘Prevalence rate’ means that the measurement shows the percentage of adults/households (identified by the **MeasurementLevel** column) who have been victims of crime in the last 12 months. ‘Perception’ means that the measurement shows the percentage of adults who have a particular perception about crime or the criminal justice system.

Characteristic

CHARACTERISTICVAR

Possible values: Various

This includes all the values in the **CharacteristicVar** column of the main data tables.

CHARACTERISTICLABEL

Possible values: Various

This column contains a text description of the measure that **MeasurementVar** relates to.

9.6 How to use Open Data tables

At the simplest level, CSEW Open Data tables can be used to find CSEW estimates for certain demographic groups. The CSV files can be imported into most data analysis programmes for this purpose. A full list of the measurements that are included in these tables can be found in the **MeasurementVar** reference table. A full list of demographic characteristics that these measurements can be analysed by using these tables can be found in the **CharacteristicVar** reference table.

The data specification table above should make clear to users that to find the estimate they are interested in requires filtering or searching data across different columns to identify the population group they are interested in. For example, overall national estimates for all adults aged 16 and over can be found by selecting '16+' from the **Age** column, 'All' from the **Sex** column, and 'Total' from the **Characteristic** column (for personal crime or perception estimates). At the other extreme level of detail, users could find estimates for 16-24 year old married women by selecting the appropriate categories from the **Age**, **Sex** and **Characteristic** columns. Other levels of detail can be found by selecting the appropriate values in these fields (or **HouseholdType** for household crime estimates).

When using these estimates, users should be aware of the fact that the CSEW is a sample survey and produces estimates with a margin of error around them. As such, ONS recommends that users do not use estimates based on fewer than 50 respondents (identified by the **UnweightedCount** column). This feature of the data should also be considered when comparing differences between groups. Standard statistical tests can be used to identify whether differences between demographic groups are 'statistically significant'. That is, whether the differences seen in the CSEW data are due to differences in the population of England and Wales as a whole, or whether they occurred by chance as a result of the random selection of respondents for the CSEW sample. Users should familiarise themselves with this concept before using these tables.

When comparing estimates, users should ensure that they are only comparing estimates from independent samples. Although the current set of tables only include data for a single time period, future releases may cover other time periods. When comparing data over time, users should consider the time periods that are being used to ensure that they are not overlapping. This can be identified by consideration of the **Period**, **LastYear**, and **LastQuarter** columns in the data tables.

Some users may want to combine data in these tables with data from other sources. One common use of this would be to produce counts of crime and numbers of victims by combining the CSEW Open Data tables with population data. Incidence rates in these tables show the number of crimes per 1,000 adults or 1,000 households. By multiplying the values in the CSEW Open Data tables by ONS estimates of the total number of adults/households in England and Wales divided by 1,000, it is possible to calculate the total number of crimes that took place over a 12 month period. Similarly, prevalence rates show the percentage of adults or households who were victims of crime in a 12 month period. If these percentages (once converted to a decimal) are multiplied by the total number of adults/households in England and Wales, it is possible to calculate the number of victims of crime. Users should bear in mind that when doing this, it is important to use a population estimate for the same subpopulation as that used in the CSEW Open Data tables. So, for example, an incidence rate for men aged 16-24 in England and Wales from the CSEW Open Data tables

should be multiplied by a population estimate for men aged 16-24 in England and Wales to calculate the number of crimes against men aged 16-24 in England and Wales.

9.7 Changes to the Open Data tables variables

For the survey year 2012/13 (i.e. interviews from April 2012 onwards) changes were made to the demographic questions in the CSEW questionnaire. The changes have been made in accordance with harmonised standards set by ONS with the aim of providing consistent data series across government (ONS Harmonisation). As these questions were introduced into the survey in April 2012, any annual dataset produced over the previous 12 month period will necessarily have included both the new and the old style questions. This affected datasets for the reporting periods 'Year to June 2012', 'Year to September 2012' and 'Year to December 2012', as shown in Table 9b.

Table 9b: Overlapping CSEW questionnaire periods

	Release	Year to March 2012	Year to June 2012	Year to September 2012	Year to December 2012	Year to March 2013
Old	April to June 2011	✔				
	July to September 2011	✔	✔			
	October to December 2011	✔	✔	✔		
	January to March 2012	✔	✔	✔	✔	
New	April to June 2012		✔	✔	✔	✔
	July to September 2012			✔	✔	✔
	October to December 2012				✔	✔
	January to March 2013					✔

For some variables it was possible to recode the old data in such a way that they were comparable with the new data; similarly it was possible in other cases to code the new data so that they were comparable with the old data. For some variables the old and new versions were too different to be compared, so were excluded from the open data tables until the 'Year to March 2013' release. These changes did not affect other data in the publications, because these were not categorised by household or personal characteristics.

Further details are available from the 'CSEW Open Data tables instructions' file accompanying each of the published sets of Open Data tables.

Chapter 10: Other reference data

10.1 Nature of crime

Additional analysis is published from the year to March dataset of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) relating to the 'nature of crime'. For a number of crime types (for example: bicycle theft, burglary, vandalism, violence) tables are available detailing characteristics such as:

- Timing of when the incident occurred.
- Location of where the incident occurred, if appropriate.
- Cost of stolen items/damage incurred as a result of the incident, if appropriate.
- Level of injuries sustained and types of weapons used in the incident, if appropriate.
- Emotional impact of the incident on the respondent.
- Perceived seriousness of the incident to the respondent.
- Offenders involved in the incident, if known by the respondent.

The latest published figures are for 2012/13, available from the ONS Website Nature of Crime. Data relating to the 2012/13 CSEW will be published in line with the new publication cycle which was consulted on with users in 2012, the findings of which can be found in Future Dissemination Strategy Summary of Responses

10.2 Open Data tables (police recorded crime)

Data tables on police recorded crime broken down by police force / Community Safety Partnership (CSP), quarterly period and individual offence code are available from the Home Office website.

10.3 Archived Data

Access to all CSEW micro data prior to the move to ONS was via the UK data archive. Once responsibility, including all historic data, passed from the Home Office to ONS new data arrangements were made. However, since all historic data had previously been available for download from the data archive, it was decided that such data would remain available for download and be unaffected by the transition of responsibility to ONS. Users can download CSEW datasets from the CSEW section of the UK Data Archive for all years to 2010/11.

Most 2011/12 and future CSEW micro-data will remain accessible via the CSEW section of the UK Data Archive with the exception of the Inter Personal Violence Module (which contains some of the most sensitive data on the CSEW record), and the geographical variables below Local Authority level. These data are available via the ONS virtual Micro data Laboratory (VML) and the Secure Data Service.

Appendix 1: Recorded crime list

The classifications defined in this appendix are those used in the last two years for crime recorded by the police and notifiable to the Home Office. In general, attempting, conspiring, aiding, abetting, causing or permitting a crime is classified under the heading of the crime itself, though in certain cases it is shown separately.

Recorded crime covers all indictable and triable-either-way offences. Additionally, a few closely associated summary offences are included. Summary offences are identified in the listing, together with the reasons for their inclusion. The crimes on this list are termed notifiable offences and their listing is referred to as the notifiable offences list (NOL).

Most of the offences listed are defined in terms of legal offences (i.e. sections of Acts). A comprehensive list of these offences, together with key legal definitions and explanatory notes, appears on the Counting Rules for Recorded Crime pages on the Home Office website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

VICTIM BASED CRIME

Violence against the person

Homicide

1 Murder
4.1 Manslaughter
4.10 Corporate manslaughter
4.2 Infanticide
Applies to infants aged under 12 months killed by the mother while of disturbed mind.

Violence with injury

2 Attempted murder
4.3 Intentional destruction of viable unborn child
4.4 Causing death by dangerous driving
4.6 Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
4.8 Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving
5A Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent
5B Use of substance or object to endanger life
5C Possession of items to endanger life
5D Assault with intent to cause serious harm
5E Endangering life
6 Endangering railway passengers
7 Endangering life at sea
8F Inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent
8H Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent
37/1 Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
4.7 Causing or allowing death of child or vulnerable person
4.9 Causing death by driving: unlicensed or disqualified or uninsured drivers

8G Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury
8J Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury
8K Poisoning or female genital mutilation
8N Assault with injury
8P Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury

Violence without injury

3A Conspiracy to murder
3B Threats to kill
8L Harassment
8M Racially or religiously aggravated harassment
8Q Stalking
11 Cruelty to and neglect of children
11A Cruelty to children/young persons
12 Abandoning a child under the age of two years
13 Child abduction
14 Procuring illegal abortion
36 Kidnapping
104 Assault without injury on a constable
105A Assault without injury
105B Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury

Sexual offences

Rape

19C Rape of a female aged 16 or over
19D Rape of a female child under 16
19E Rape of a female child under 13
19F Rape of a male aged 16 or over
19G Rape of a male child under 16
19H Rape of a male child under 13

Other sexual offences

17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13
20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over
20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13
21 Sexual activity involving a child under 13
22B Sexual activity involving a child under 16
22A Causing sexual activity without consent
23 Incest or familial sexual offences
70 Sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder
71 Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
72 Trafficking for sexual exploitation
73 Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature
88A Sexual grooming
88C Other miscellaneous sexual offences

88D Unnatural sexual offences
88E Exposure and voyeurism

Robbery

Key elements of the offence of robbery (Section 8 of the Theft Act 1968) are stealing and the use or threat of force immediately before doing so, and in order to do so. Any injuries resulting from this force are not recorded as additional offences of violence.

34A Robbery of business property
34B Robbery of personal property

Theft offences

Burglary

Key elements of police recorded burglaries (as defined by the Theft Act 1968) are entry (or attempted entry) to a building as a trespasser with intent to either (a) steal property from it (including stealing or attempting to steal), (b) inflict grievous bodily harm or (c) commit unlawful damage to property whilst inside. The offence group also includes aggravated burglary (Section 10 of the same Act), which is defined as a burglary where the burglar is in possession of a weapon at the time. The Home Office website (see above) contains details of the types of premises that constitute a dwelling.

Domestic burglary

28A Burglary in a dwelling
28B Attempted burglary in a dwelling
28C Distraction burglary in a dwelling
28D Attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling

Non-domestic burglary

30A Burglary in a building other than a dwelling
30B Attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

Vehicle offences

37/2 Aggravated vehicle taking

Part of Section 1 of the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992. Applies to offences of unauthorised vehicle taking (see classification 48 below) with additional aggravating factors of dangerous driving, or causing an accident involving injury or damage.

45 Theft from a vehicle
48 Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle

Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle (part of Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968; also known as taking without consent or TWOC) is a summary offence. It is closely associated with theft of a motor vehicle because at the time of recording it may not be known whether the intention is to permanently deprive the owner.

126 Vehicle interference

Summary offences, closely associated with theft of or from vehicles. The Home Office website (see above) contains detailed guidance for forces on distinguishing between these offences and criminal damage, where a vehicle is reported damaged.

Theft from the person

39 Theft from the person

Bicycle theft

44 Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle

Shoplifting

46 Shoplifting

All other theft offences

40 Theft in a dwelling other than from an automatic machine or meter
41 Theft by an employee
42 Theft of mail
43 Dishonest use of electricity
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter
49 Other theft
35 Blackmail

Criminal damage and arson

Arson

56A Arson endangering life
56B Arson not endangering life
Not all malicious fires that the police record are included here. If the owner of the property set alight is wounded, then a crime of violence is recorded. If a stolen vehicle is subsequently burnt out, it is recorded as a vehicle theft. An additional arson offence is recorded only if there is evidence that the arsonist is unconnected with the vehicle thief.

Criminal damage

58A Criminal damage to a dwelling
58B Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
58C Criminal damage to a vehicle
58D Other criminal damage
58E Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a dwelling
(see classification 58A)
58F Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling
(see classification 58B)
58G Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage to a vehicle
(see classification 58C)
58H Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage
(see classification 58D)
58J Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage

OTHER CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Drug offences

Trafficking of drugs

92A Trafficking in controlled drugs

Possession of drugs

92C Other drug offences
Various offences, mostly under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes; failure to comply with notice requiring information relating to prescribing, supply etc. of drugs; supply of intoxicating substance; and supply etc. of articles for administering or preparing controlled drugs.
92D Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)
92E Possession of controlled drugs (cannabis)

Possession of weapons offences

10A Possession of firearms with intent
10B Possession of firearms offences
10C Possession of other weapons
10D Possession of article with blade or point
81 Other firearms offences
90 Other knives offences

Public order offences

9A Public fear, alarm or distress
9B Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress
62 Treason
62A Violent disorder
63 Treason felony
64 Riot
65 Violent disorder
66 Other offences against the State or public order

Miscellaneous crimes against society

15 Concealing an infant death close to birth
24 Exploitation of prostitution
26 Bigamy
27 Soliciting for prostitution
33 Going equipped for stealing
38 Profiting from or concealing proceeds of crime
53H Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
53J Possession of articles for use in fraud
54 Handling stolen goods
59 Threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage
60 Forgery or use of drug prescription
61 Other forgery

61A Possession of false documents
67 Perjury
68 Libel
69 Offender Management Act offences
75 Betting, gaming and lotteries
76 Aiding suicide
78 Immigration offences
79 Perverting the course of justice
80 Absconding from lawful custody
82 Customs and Revenue offences
83 Bail offences
84 Trade descriptions, etc
85 Health and Safety offences
86 Obscene publications
87 Protection from eviction
89 Adulteration of food
91 Public health offences
94 Planning laws
95 Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements etc
96 Wildlife offences
99 Other notifiable offences
802 Dangerous driving
814 Fraud, forgery associated with vehicle driver records

Fraud offences

51 Fraud by company director
52 False accounting
53A Cheque and credit card fraud (pre Fraud Act 2006)
53B Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)
53C Fraud by false representation: cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts
53D Fraud by false representation: other frauds
53E Fraud by failing to disclose information
53F Fraud by abuse of position
53G Obtaining services dishonestly
55 Bankruptcy and insolvency offences

Selected National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) offences

Additional data on fraud, reported from industry bodies, are provided by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). These are still under development and data are included as they become available. The list below shows the offences within the NFIB dataset and the date from which they were included.

1 April 2011
"419" Advance fee fraud
Application fraud (excluding mortgages)
Bankruptcy and insolvency
Business trading fraud

Charity fraud
Cheque, plastic card and online bank accounts (not PSP)
Computer software service fraud
Consumer phone fraud
Corporate employee fraud
Corporate procurement fraud
Counterfeit cashiers' cheques
Department for Work and Pensions fraud (DWP)
Dating scams
Door to door sales and bogus tradesmen
False accounting
Fraud recovery
Fraudulent applications for grants from charities
HM Revenue and Customs fraud (HMRC)
Inheritance fraud
Insurance broker fraud
Insurance related fraud
Lender loan fraud
Lottery scams
Mandate fraud
Mortgage related fraud
Online shopping and auctions
Other advance fee frauds
Other consumer non investment fraud
Other financial investment
Passport application fraud
Prime bank guarantees
Pyramid or Ponzi schemes
Rental fraud
Share sales or boiler room fraud
Telecom industry fraud (misuse of contracts)
Ticket fraud
Time shares and holiday club fraud

1 January 2012
Computer virus/malware/spyware
Denial of service attack
Denial of service attack extortion
Hacking extortion
Hacking – PBX/dial through
Hacking – personal
Hacking – server
Hacking – social media and email

1 April 2012
Fraudulent applications for grants from government funded organisations

14 February 2013
Pension fraud by pensioners (or their estate)
Pension fraud committed on pensioners
Pension liberation fraud

1 April 2013
Abuse of a position of trust
Dishonesty retaining a wrongful credit
Fraud by failing to disclose information
Retail fraud
Other fraud
Other regulatory fraud

Appendix 2: CSEW offences

Crime categories and the offence codes used in the CSEW

The list below gives a breakdown of which offence codes make up the different crime categories that are referred to in the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Details of how offences reported in CSEW are placed into the offence codes used below can be found in Offence Coding Coders' Manual in the Technical Report (TNS-BMRB, 2012). For household crimes the respondent is answering on behalf of the household and when an offence occurs the whole household is considered to have been victimised. For personal crimes, the respondent themselves have to be the victim of a personal crime for it to be inside the survey's coverage.

Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report and due to this are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

Household crimes

All household offences

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped
80. Arson
81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Comparable household crime

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped
80. Arson
81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Acquisitive crime against the household

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
57. Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected garage/outhouse - something taken
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped

Domestic burglary

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary with entry

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary with loss

52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary with no loss

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken

Domestic burglary attempts

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Domestic burglary in a dwelling

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Domestic burglary in a dwelling with entry

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Domestic burglary in a dwelling with loss

52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)

Domestic burglary in a dwelling with no loss

51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)

Domestic burglary in a dwelling attempts

53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling with entry

57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling with loss

58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken

Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling with no loss

57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken

Domestic burglary in a non-connected building to a dwelling attempts

50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse

Other household theft

55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)

Theft from a dwelling

55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter

Theft from outside a dwelling

65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)

Vehicle-related thefts

60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped

Theft from vehicles

61. Theft from car/van
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Theft of vehicles

60. Theft of car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped

Attempted theft of and from vehicles

71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped

Bicycle theft

64. Theft of pedal cycle

Criminal damage

80. Arson
81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Criminal damage to a vehicle

81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)

Arson and other criminal damage

80. Arson
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

Personal crimes

All personal (not including rape and indecent assault[51])

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive
41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery
43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person
67. Other personal theft
73. Other attempted theft

[51] Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence category of wounding).

Comparable personal crime

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive
41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery
43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person

All violence

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive

Other violence categories exist beyond this list but largely depend on details of the offence such as the level of injury (for example, violence with injury) and victim-offender relationship (for example, domestic violence) that are not reflected in different offence codes. Chapter 5 contains more information on different crime categories as a result of these offence characteristics.

Comparable violence

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive

Common assault

13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault

Wounding

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive

Robbery

41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery

Acquisitive crime against the individual

41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery
43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person
67. Other personal theft
73. Other attempted theft

Theft from the person

43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person

Snatch theft from person

43. Snatch theft from the person

Stealth theft from person

44. Other theft from the person

Attempted snatch or stealth theft from person

45. Attempted theft from the person

Other theft of personal property

67. Other personal theft
73. Other attempted theft

All theft

43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person
50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
67. Other personal theft

71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped
73. Other attempted theft

Total CSEW crime (not including rape, indecent assault[52])

11. Serious wounding
12. Other wounding
13. Common assault
21. Attempted assault
32. Serious wounding with sexual motive
33. Other wounding with sexual motive
41. Robbery
42. Attempted robbery
43. Snatch theft from the person
44. Other theft from the person
45. Attempted theft from the person
50. Attempted burglary to non-connected domestic garage/outhouse
51. Burglary in a dwelling (nothing taken)
52. Burglary in a dwelling (something taken)
53. Attempted burglary in a dwelling
55. Theft in a dwelling
56. Theft from a meter
57. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - nothing taken
58. Burglary from non-connected domestic garage/outhouse - something taken
60. Theft of car/van
61. Theft from car/van
62. Theft of motorbike, motorscooter or moped
63. Theft from motorbike, motorscooter or moped
64. Theft of pedal cycle
65. Theft from outside dwelling (excluding theft of milk bottles)
67. Other personal theft
71. Attempted theft of/from car/van
72. Attempted theft of/from motorcycle, motorscooter or moped
73. Other attempted theft
80. Arson
81. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (£20 or under)
82. Criminal damage to a motor vehicle (over £20)
83. Criminal damage to the home (£20 or under)
84. Criminal damage to the home (over £20)
85. Other criminal damage (£20 or under)
86. Other criminal damage (over £20)

[52] Due to the small numbers of rape, attempted rape and indecent assault offences identified by face-to-face CSEW interviews, results from the main CSEW are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence category of wounding).

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